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Issue No 125

Available from Wednesday,  
February 17, 2010



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## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Tips and treatments to help you look good and feel even better – See inside



# SCOUT DIES IN HORROR AVALANCHE

A TEENAGE Scout from Borough Green has been killed in an avalanche in the Scottish Highlands.

Stephen Young – who was taking part in an annual Scout trip when tragedy struck on Monday – was airlifted to hospital in Fort William from Creag Meagaiddh in Inverness-shire but was pronounced dead on arrival.

It is not known what triggered the avalanche on the 3,701ft high cliff circuit, but police have confirmed they are investigating.

The 18-year-old, who is believed to be a former sixth form student at

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Maidstone Girls' Grammar, was on the trip with his parents, Andrew, 46, who is in the RAF, and Judy, 43, also a Scout leader.

The youngster's grandfather James Young, 70, told Sky News: "It's a complete and utter disaster. It's an awful blow, he was only 18. I can't believe it's happened, it's absolutely horrendous.

"He was a very active lad with the Scouts, very outgoing.

"These things happen, I'm afraid. At least he died doing something he loved."

Mr Young, an Explorer Scout, was walking along a ridge with seven other adults when the accident happened. It is not thought anyone else was injured.

It has been reported that members of the Kinder Mountain Rescue Team, based in the English Peak District, were on holiday in the Highlands and raised the alarm.

An RAF helicopter and Lochaber and Kinloss Mountain Rescue teams were involved in the search and rescue operation.

In a statement, Simon Carter of the Scout Association paid tribute to Mr

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



## TERRIBLE LOSS

Stephen Young died while trekking in the Scottish Highlands. The 18-year-old Scout leader, from Borough Green, suffered fatal injuries while walking in the Cairngorms on Monday.

The Scout Association said: "Stephen was part of an experienced group in the Cairngorms to expand their winter hill walking skills.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephen's family and friends at this time. We are working with the authorities to support those involved in this tragic incident."

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**2** Watch the funeral of Rifleman Pete Aldridge who was killed while serving in Afghanistan. **Search 'Rifleman'**



**3** The Royal Marines are raising funds for Marines wounded in action to take part in 2012 Paralympics. **Search 'Marines'**

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NEWS EDITOR: Simon Robinson 01303 817185

GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

WEBSITE: [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk)

TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110

FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: [yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk). Sales: [advertising@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:advertising@kosmedia.co.uk)

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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# Consultation row over NHS parking plans

■ BY ANNA WHITE

VIEWS of hospital patients and visitors may have been bypassed in a national consultation into whether NHS car parking charges should be scrapped, a council committee claims.

Maidstone's external overview and scrutiny board has hit out at the Department of Health for failing to give residents a fair chance to comment on the report before yesterday's cut-off date.

The criticism comes after a breakdown in communication between the DoH and local authorities.

The consultation was published on December 29 last year, but the council was only made aware of its existence 16 days before the deadline.

The committee's chairman, Cllr Eric Hotson said: "The consultation was not forwarded to the local authorities in the NHS south east coast area until February 1 – this is not long enough for councillors to gather views of their residents and formulate a response."

The report focuses on the effects hospital parking charges have on patients' experiences and whether improvements could be made to help patients recover without the added financial pressure.

In the introduction to the consultation, Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham said he believes the NHS can do better to manage parking and the current "costly" parking services which cause "considerable stress and hardship to families" already going through an anxious time.

The papers state all parking charges at NHS sites could not be scrapped immediately as it is not feasible and could lose the health sector up to £200 million a year. However, Mr Burnham



**REPORT:** Maidstone hospital is among those where parking charges may be phased out

wanted to see it "phased out" during the next three years and wanted to use the consultation to find solutions.

The Secretary of State said he wanted to hear a range of views on the issue, but the external overview and scrutiny panel argued that, despite this being an issue of great concern to communities, the target audience outlined in the document did not include local authorities or the public.

Other concerns included the shortened consultation period of eight weeks, a reduction from the minimum 12 set out in the Government Code of Practice.

In retaliation to the reduced deadline, the committee has requested a time extension to consider the documents and give residents more time to send in their views.

The board will discuss the consultation at its meeting on March 9, after which a response will be submitted.

Comments can be emailed to [osc@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:osc@maidstone.gov.uk) before the meeting date.

At the time of writing the Department of Health had not answered calls from Yourmaidstone.

**yourmaidstone  
NEWS IN BRIEF**

## Pupils asked to design house of the future

SCHOOL children who design a house of the future could win money for their classmates.

The competition is being run by Elephant, a Kent-based window and conservatory company, to help them find eco-friendly house ideas.

The winner will get a personal prize, cash for their school and their design will also be put on a billboard.

Entries should be sent to Elephant's Design-A-House, c/o PMW Communications, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9HP, or emailed to [elephant@pmwcom.co.uk](mailto:elephant@pmwcom.co.uk), by Friday, February 26.

## Custard pie flingers prepare to do battle

CHAMPIONS of an international custard pie-throwing contest have started training to ensure they retain their trophy for another year.

The Coxheath Til I Pie team are discussing tactics for the 43rd World Championships.

Each year teams from across the UK and other countries attempt to hit their opponents with the custard pudding in a series of heats.

This year's contest is at Coxheath Village Hall on Saturday, May 22.

To enter email Leslee Harris at [lesleewpc@gmail.com](mailto:lesleewpc@gmail.com) or go to [www.wcpc.me.uk](http://www.wcpc.me.uk).

## Have you the makings of borough councillor?

RESIDENTS who are passionate about their community may have the qualities to be a borough councillor.

Maidstone council needs new recruits and is holding an information day at the Town Hall, High Street, from 4-8pm on Monday, March 8.

Potential applicants will be able to meet current councillors and officers who will offer advice and information on what's involved and how much commitment is needed.

Successful councillors will receive training, a small allowance and ongoing support.



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)

# Would-be MPs pledge of good clean contest

## Restoring voters' trust is key aim

■ BY ANNA WHITE

CANDIDATES hoping to become Maidstone's next MP have pledged to run clean campaigns in the upcoming general election.

Three of the town's parliamentary candidates, who hope to replace veteran Tory MP Ann Widdecombe, have promised not to use dirty tactics as they compete to win votes.

Conservative hopeful Helen Grant said: "I strongly believe candidates should make pledges about their behaviour prior to the election and agree to run clean campaigns.

"Dirty tactics only alienate the electorate and we must strive to re-engage our voters and concentrate on electing a government that will put our country back on its feet."

Liberal Democrat candidate Peter Carroll and Green Party representative Stuart Jeffery have also agreed to run clean campaigns.

The truce follows calls from Mr Carroll, who recently sold his Larkfield-based haulage firm, for his rivals to follow his pledge not to abuse the MPs expenses system if elected.

His announcement comes just weeks after



**PARTY LINE:** Liberal Democrat Peter Carroll, left, Conservative Helen Grant and Green Party hopeful Stuart Jeffery

four MPs were prosecuted for dishonestly claiming expenses and Mr Carroll promised not to claim for a second home or to have another job, if elected.

Mr Carroll said: "The public are absolutely disgusted by the conduct of many MPs. They rightly believe their outrageous behaviour with expenses has ruined any faith that was left in politics. At this election, the calibre of the person will be more important than ever. I believe people have had enough of professional politicians."

Mr Jeffery backed the pledges, but also added a few of his own. He said he would like to see the next Maidstone and Weald MP be fully

open about any expenses claimed, spend their time working with constituents and campaign for true proportional representation in parliament, including an elected House of Lords.

Mrs Grant acknowledged Mr Carroll's proposals, but has her own views on how an elected MP should behave in Parliament.

She said: "I will work hard to restore public trust and confidence in MPs through integrity and transparency and by following the rules.

"My pledges for Maidstone and the Weald are about the things that matter to the people of this constituency."

Labour's parliamentary candidate, Rav Seeruthun, could not be contacted for comment.

## Cairngorms avalanche tragedy

FROM FRONT PAGE

Young's "sheer zest for life" and said his desire to help others will be sadly missed.

The spokesman added: "Stephen was part of an experienced, all-adult group who were in Cairngorms as part of their annual trip to the region to expand their winter hill-walking skills.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephen's family and friends at this very sad time."

The teenager, who had been a member of the Scouting movement since he was six years old, made headlines in 2007 when he raised nearly £2,500 for Demelza children's charity, based near Sittingbourne, by camping out in his garden for the whole year.

His grandfather said Mr Young was studying electronics and hoped for a career in film production.

According to national newspapers, the SportScotland Avalanche Information Service had warned earlier on Monday that the avalanche risk in the area was "considerable".

A report on the incident will be sent to the procurator fiscal at Fort William.

## Sickening images on pervert's computer

A PAEDOPHILE who downloaded more than 18,000 indecent images and movies of children has been jailed for 20 months.

Ronald Fuller, formerly of Wrotham Heath, was handed the sentence at Maidstone Crown Court.

Judge Philip Statman said the images found on Fuller's computer were some of the worst he has ever seen.

Of the 18,378 images and films, 2,866 were categorised either level four or five, level five being the most serious depicting sadism or bestiality with children.

Judge Statman said: "Each of these images has a victim. These are young girls, early teens depicted in the most appalling states of humiliation inflicted on them by adults."

Fuller was caught after Kent Police executed a warrant at his home in September, last year.

He was charged the same day with seven offences of possessing indecent images of children and 20 offences of making indecent images of children.

He pleaded guilty to all but one offence in December.

Senior investigating officer Det Con Jo Gordon said: "Fuller had an extensive collection of indecent



**SICK IMAGES:** Paedophile Ronald Fuller

images, including many stills and movies of children being sadistically abused of children.

"People engaged in such offences must realise that they are contributing towards the continuing horrific abuse of children."

"We are determined to do everything we can to track down and bring to justice these offenders."

Fuller, who has already served part of his sentence while on remand, will be placed on the sex offenders register for ten years.

## 36 Challenge is not for the faint-hearted

TEAMS hope to raise money for Maidstone soldiers by completing a series of challenges – but need help to get the event up and running.

Organisers of the annual 36 Challenge hope to recruit potential sponsors for participating teams, a panel of judges, volunteers to run stalls, prizes for a tombola and a printing firm to make the venue look the part – all in aid of charity.

The challenge is held at the Mall Chequers each year to help collect funds for Maidstone's Army regiment – the 36 Engineers, based at Invicta Park Barracks.

The event involves teams of six and sees them tackle sporting challenges against the clock and other competitors.

### Tragedy

This year's contest, to be held on March 13, is seen as more poignant than ever as it follows the recent death of one of the 36 Engineers' comrades, David Markland, who was killed in Afghanistan – read the full story on page five.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Markland's regiment has already signed up to take part in the challenge, as has a team from the Village Hotel, Maidstone, and winners from the last two years: the Bob Prowse Gym in Armstrong Road.

Those thinking of entering are advised the challenges are not for the faint-hearted.

Residents or businesses who could lend a hand for the day, or wish to enter, can contact Lee Bennett at Maidstone town centre management on 01622 678777, email lbennett@mtdci.co.uk or visit the management office on level two in the Mall Chequers.

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## Quake heroes enjoy tea at No.10 with PM's wife

THE wife of Prime Minister Gordon Brown has thanked Kent's specialist search and rescue team for their efforts in Haiti.

Sarah Brown hosted a tea party at Downing Street and invited the six-strong team from Kent Fire and Rescue Service and staff from eight other UK fire crews as a thank you for the contribution they made in the aftermath of the earthquake.

The teams were also given a tour of Number 10, including the Cabinet and State rooms.

## Fertile ground for police with market attendance

MAIDSTONE'S Rural Neighbourhood police team are to visit farmers' markets to hear villagers' thoughts and concerns.

PCSO supervisor Nicola Morris said the markets were a perfect opportunity to meet people they may not normally get a chance to see.

Officers will attend markets in Lenham, Langley, Headcorn and Yalding between now and May.

People who cannot make the markets but wish to discuss policing concerns can contact the team on 01622 604392.

## Have you lost a purse?

POLICE are keen to trace elderly shoppers who may have been victims of purse thieves.

Officers wish to speak to an elderly couple who were shopping in Robert Dyas and an elderly woman with a trolley bag in Barnards, both on Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone, last Wednesday.

It is believed they may have been targeted by a trio, all male, who were arrested on the same day on suspicion of theft.

The victims are urged to call Maidstone police on 01622 690690.

## Fit for charity purpose

ENERGETIC residents dug out their gym kits to take part in a national two-hour aerobathon in aid of a children's charity.

Marriot Tudor Park Hotel in Bearsted was just one of more than 150 gyms across the country to host the event and help raise cash for the NSPCC's Child's Voice Appeal.

Hundreds of qualified gym instructors began the workout at 6pm on Monday, last week, but the Maidstone team ran another the following morning to collect more funds.

# StARTle top prize is gallery exhibition

■ BY ANNA WHITE

PICASSO wannabes and photographers hoping to be the next David Bailey are invited to enter a competition to win a free four-week exhibition.

The contest – StARTle 2010 – is open to illustrators, painters, film-makers, photographers and even model-makers, who could all benefit from a free showcase at Maidstone's Graham Clarke Gallery.

StARTle was launched in 2009, by the borough council and supported by this paper, to mark the Hazlitt Arts Centre's first anniversary.

Hundreds entered in the hope of winning a free exhibition, but a judging panel awarded photographer Rebecca Crosbie the prize during a ceremony which followed a family fun day.

This year the celebrations for the competition, which for the second year Yourmaidstone is the exclusive media partner for, is extended to a three-day festival.

Cabinet member for leisure and culture Cllr Brian Moss said he was looking forward to the changes for this year's event.

"This year we have decided to make StARTle into a three-day festival," he said.



TALENTED: Last year's winner Rebecca Crosbie

"It's going to be bigger and better than last year and we're encouraging as many people as possible to get involved by submitting their work."

The winner will get a free four-week exhibition in the Graham Clarke Gallery, which is a fantastic opportunity for any person looking to get established in the art world.

"I'm delighted that Maidstone council is working with Yourmaidstone for the second



year running and look forward to seeing the entries."

Entries for StARTle 2010 need to be submitted by Friday, April 23, and will then be judged by a panel led by Boughton Monchelsea-based artist and inspiration behind the exhibition space, Graham Clarke.

Mr Clarke will be joined on the panel by Yourmaidstone news editor, Simon Robinson, and lecturer at the University of the Creative Arts, Dr Terry Perk. Five shortlisted artists will be invited to bring their work in for judging in the week beginning May 3, before the winner is unveiled during the three-day festival, between May 13 and 15.

To enter send a digital jpeg image or a still photo of one art piece, together with a brief summary of yourself as an artist and a description of your work, your name, address and telephone number to: Vronni Ward, marketing manager, at vronniward@maidstone.gov.uk.

Keep reading Yourmaidstone for upcoming details of the event and interviews with the judges and past winner.



NEW BEAT: PCSO Richard Chainey

## Say hello, hello, hello to PCSO

VILLAGERS have a new officer on the beat in their area to tackle concerns and deter criminals.

Richard Chainey has been appointed as the new Police Community Support Officer for Loose, Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton and has already made a good impression.

PCSO Chainey, who took up his position after completing a policing degree, said: "I have always seen my future as being in policing."

"I wanted a career which would be interesting, involve meeting lots of people and doing something different every day."

The 25-year-old is looking into issues raised by residents in each village, such as speeding

motorists in Chart Sutton, and is hoping to find solutions. The new officer's task in Loose is to work with the parish council to deter anti-social youths from congregating at the public park – a concern he hopes to raise at the next parish council meeting.

The area is already patrolled at weekends by a rural anti-social behaviour car, but PCSO Chainey believes more police presence will help resolve the problem.

He will also be making regular visits to the Cornwallis Academy to build relationships with students and staff, plus to urge parents to stop parking inconsiderately.

To contact PCSO Chainey, phone 01622 604392.

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# 'Selflessness' of dad of two killed by blast

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

TOUCHING tributes have been paid to a "courageous" father-of-two killed by an explosion in Afghanistan.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Dave Markland, 36, of Euxton in Lancashire, was a member of 36 Engineer Regiment based at Invicta Park Barracks in Maidstone.

He was killed as he led a team clearing routes of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the Nad-e-Ali district in central Helmand Province on Monday, February 8.

WO2 Markland leaves behind his wife Corallee and their two sons Keelen, ten, and Logan, seven.

A statement from his family read: "Dave was a wonderful husband, father, son and brother. His family and friends all loved and adored him."

"Keelen and Logan will always remember how funny and playful their dad was."

## Leadership

"We are very proud of Dave's achievements in his Army career. His soldiers, friends and officers all respected his selflessness and admired his style of leadership. He would have made the best squadron sergeant major in the world."

"He will be sadly missed and leaves behind a family who he loved and who loves him very, very much. We are all proud of our hero."

The Ministry of Defence said WO2 Markland was killed by an IED (improvised explosive device) while on a task in support of Battle Group (Central South).

It was his eighth operational tour of duty over a 20-year Army career, having completed five in Bosnia, one in Iraq and another in Afghanistan.

Defence Secretary Bob Ainsworth said: "I was deeply saddened to hear about WO2 Markland's death."



**COURAGEOUS:** Dave Markland, killed while clearing IEDs, was 'adored by his team - they would have followed him to the ends of the earth'

"He was an experienced and extremely courageous soldier. My thoughts are with his family at this difficult time."

Lieutenant Colonel Gareth Bex, Royal Logistic Corps, Commanding Officer, Counter-IED Task Force, described his fallen comrade as a "bear of a man" who was "big and bold, but caring and compassionate".

Lt Col Bex said: "Warrant Officer Class 2 Markland was adored by his team; they would have followed him to the ends of the earth, such was the respect and trust he inspired."

"A most courageous soldier, he epitomised the character and bravery so typical of the Counter-IED Team. I feel truly honoured to have known this fine man, and am devastated to have lost him. My heart goes out to his wife Corallene and his two sons - they can be extremely proud of his achievements."

MO2 Markland's death is a grim landmark for the war in Afghanistan. More fighters have now been killed there than during the 1982 Falklands conflict.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Stop checks lead to fines

LAW-BREAKING motorists have been fined hundreds of pounds and handed fixed penalties during a police stop check.

The two-day operation by the Rural Neighbourhood Team was launched following reports of flytipping and lorries ignoring weight and width restrictions on village roads.

The officers worked with Maidstone council's environment enforcement team and immigration to carry out the checks on February 8 and 9.

As a result, 24 lorry drivers were issued with penalty tickets for either driving through B2163 in Leeds Village while carrying more than the road's 17 Tonne limit, or for ignoring the 6'6" width restriction on bridge crossings at Teston and East Farleigh.

Four motorists were also given tickets for not wearing seatbelts or using a mobile phone and one driver was prevented from continuing his journey due to a badly cracked windscreen.

Another five drivers were fined £300 for carrying waste as part of their business without a valid licence.

### Shop cashes in for charity

A BRANCH of a budget retailer has smashed its entire company's fund-raising target for a cancer support charity by more than £100,000.

Poundland bosses set their staff a goal to raise at least £150,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support by April this year, but employees and customers at the Maidstone store went a bit further and collected a staggering £2,528.62.

The shop, in the Mall Chequers, raised the cash by hosting various events such as in-store dress up days, sponsored head shaves and its staff even took part in the Great South Run earlier this year.

### Art snatched during move

A PENSIONER is hoping to be reunited with four pieces valuable art works which were stolen while he moved home.

The limited edition prints by artist David McCall Johnson were propped inside the front door of the 69-year-old's new house in Lynley Close, off Sutton Road, and were taken while he was moving in at 3.15pm on Friday, February 5.

It is believed an opportunistic thief may have snatched them.

Police would like to speak to the owners of a white transit van seen in the area at the time.

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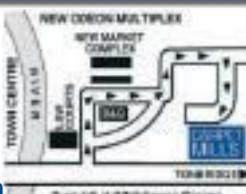
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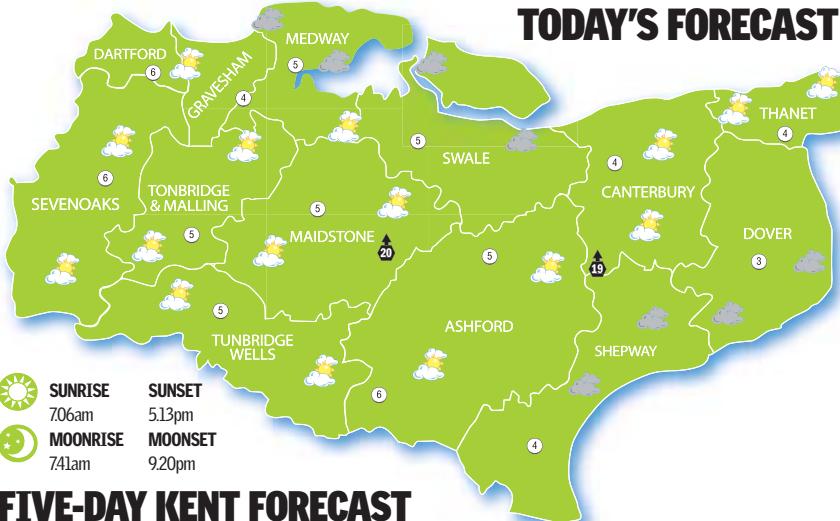
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	Sunday	5:02pm	5.3m
<b>Dover</b>	Saturday	2:16pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:01pm	5.9m
<b>Dungeness</b>	Saturday	2:33pm	7.1m
	Sunday	3:18pm	6.7m
<b>Ramsgate</b>	Saturday	2:46pm	4.6m
	Sunday	3:31pm	4.5m
<b>Sheerness</b>	Saturday	4:10pm	5.3m
	Sunday	4:51pm	5.1m
<b>Whitstable</b>	Saturday	3:59pm	4.9m
	Sunday	4:36pm	4.7m



CHIPPING IN: Helen Grant with Chris Symons

**Conservative candidate flips in McDonald's store**

TORY hopeful Helen Grant has vowed to push forward with her Parliamentary dream despite developing a new found talent for flipping burgers.

The Conservative candidate for the Maidstone and Weald seat discovered her gift for fast food during a visit to McDonald's in Week Street.

Mrs Grant admitted to being a fan of the global Golden Arches food company's meals, saying: "I must confess to the odd quarter pounder with cheese every now and then, but usually I'll go for something slimmer from the healthy options menu."

The Tory was invited to the Maidstone McDonald's branch by franchisee Chris Symons.

She was set to work on both the grill and chip-pan stations – where she put together a Big Mac meal – and later listened to Mr Symons' economic crisis concerns.

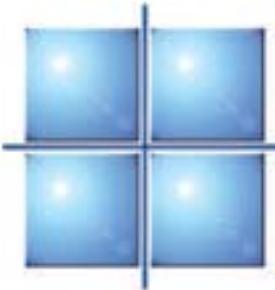
The trip to McDonald's is the latest in a long series of visits by Mrs Grant to businesses in Maidstone.

**FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST**

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		
Ashford	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	Gravesend	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	7°C
Canterbury	5°C	4°C	7°C	6°C	6°C	Maidstone	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Ramsgate	5°C	4°C	7°C	6°C	6°C
Dartford	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	7°C	Rochester	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C
Dover	4°C	3°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	Sevenoaks	4°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	5°C
Faversham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C
Folkestone	4°C	3°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	7°C	6°C	7°C
Gillingham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	7°C	6°C	7°C

**AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY**

<b>Amsterdam</b>	-1°C	<b>Madrid</b>	2°C
<b>Athens</b>	16°C	<b>New York</b>	3°C
<b>Barcelona</b>	6°C	<b>Paris</b>	2°C
<b>Beijing</b>	-3°C	<b>Rome</b>	11°C
<b>Bombay</b>	28°C	<b>Sydney</b>	30°C
<b>Cape Town</b>	23°C	<b>Tenerife</b>	22°C
<b>Cardiff</b>	6°C	<b>Tokyo</b>	5°C
<b>Gibraltar</b>	14°C	<b>Vancouver</b>	11°C
<b>Hong Kong</b>	11°C	<b>Warsaw</b>	-4°C
<b>Las Palmas</b>	23°C	<b>Wellington</b>	19°C



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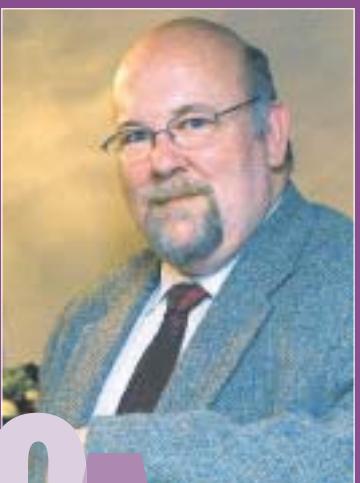
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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### DAVID WRIGHT



**Q & A**

David Wright Chief Executive of International Glaucoma based in Ashford, talks to **Ed Hill** about the organisation and about the importance of raising awareness of the eye condition to save people's sight

#### Q What is the History of the ICA?

**A** We were created in 1974 in London by a consultant surgeon Ronald Pitts Crick. He believed that patients would be much more successful in their treatment if they understood exactly why they were being given the medication of the day. His guiding rule was that information about the condition should be the best possible quality and it should be free. We have been based in Ashford for five years.

#### Q How did you get involved?

**A** Both my parents were involved with the charity. They asked me to come in one day and put up some shelves and I never left.

#### Q What is Glaucoma how does it affect people's sight?

**A** Glaucoma is a term that can cover many conditions that can reduce people's eyesight. Our primary function is to advise people who are diagnosed with Glaucoma, reassure them and provide them with all the information they need to help them through it.

Our other main task is to raise awareness generally. We estimate there are half a million people in the UK with the condition and half of them have not been diagnosed. Most people are referred to an ophthalmologist after they've seen an optician. Glaucoma reduces sight from the periphery until it becomes tunnel vision. It's

such a slow insidious disease people don't realise there is anything wrong until there's been 40 per cent damage to the optic nerve. Once you've lost that you can't turn the clock back.

#### Q What should people do if they are worried about their eyesight?

**A** If you are over 40 they should do four tests to check the range of your sight and measure the pressure in the eye. If that is too high they will refer you to your GP who will send you to a specialist. If there's any history of Glaucoma in your family you must tell the optician. If this is the case you get the eye test free. The hereditary element is a big factor.

#### Q Is it well known enough?

**A** More people are talking about it. Lorraine Tighe who was on The Apprentice has talked about her experiences and Emma Thompson and her mother have also talked about how it has affected their family. People associate the condition with age but the real message we want to get across is once you notice something might be wrong that can be too late. People need to start thinking about it in their 30s.

#### Q How does the International Aspect of the charity work?

**A** Our website has been translated into several languages and we get enquiries from other

countries who want to learn more about our experience and expertise. We helped Australia set up an organisation and we have also helped groups in France. We recently had a young man who was training to be an ophthalmologist from Nepal. He wanted to look at all the literature we have so he could translate it in his country. We've also funded £2.5 million of research into the condition in the last 10 years.

#### Q Should people be worried if there is a history of it in their family?

**A** When people are first diagnosed it can be a shock and they worry what it means for their future. This is where we can really help to reassure them that it can be treated. If people have a history of it in their family they may be worried about getting their eyes tested but it really is best they know so further reduction in the eyesight can be slowed. We had one patient diagnosed in his 30s and is still driving in his 70s.

#### Q How can people help?

**A** We receive no government funding so we are always looking for people to come up with any fundraising ideas. People can also distribute leaflets in their area or at work, or set up a support group. We run national Glaucoma week in June. If you want to know more about Glaucoma or are worried about your sight call Sightline on 01233 648170 or visit [www.glaucoma-association.com](http://www.glaucoma-association.com).

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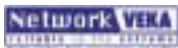
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# Gurkha veterans trapped by poverty despite settlement rights victory

THE victory in the campaign for Gurkha settlement rights has been dealt a bitter blow as retired soldiers in Nepal take desperate measures to pay their visa fees.

Some have turned to borrowing from illegal money lenders, while others have sold off precious Nepalese land to meet the £400 costs needed to settle in the UK.

Then Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced in the House of Commons last May that all Gurkha soldiers with at least four years' service in the British Army will be allowed to live in this country.

But these former soldiers have come up against fees that in Nepal – one of the poorest countries in the world – are extortionate.

The average wage in Nepal is less than £150 a year, or about 35p a day.

Actress Joanna Lumley, whose father was a Gurkha officer, led the crusade for Gurkha rights alongside Shepway's Cllr Peter Carroll.

The Absolutely Fabulous star has now written to Home Secretary Alan Johnson asking

for him to waive the visa costs for the 178 retired Gurkhas. Mr Carroll, who founded the Gurkha Justice Campaign in 2004, said he hopes the Government will deal with the situation sensibly.

"Common sense should prevail and these visa fees should be waived," he said. "The costs for visas are per person, so for a family, where they have to pay for each member, it is extremely difficult. It's shocking that some are going to loan sharks and selling land."

Mr Carroll said the problem has not taken away the victory of the Gurkha campaign and he hoped the situation will be dealt with quickly by the Government.

Folkestone town councillor Dhan Gurung, who was the first Gurkha to take office in Britain, said ministers should have looked at how to deal with visas when the settlement rights were agreed.

"These new rights have not been implemented properly," he said. "Veterans who fought for this country returned to Nepal a

long time ago and don't have good pensions or earnings. Many of them are living in the hills and for some it takes days to collect their pension. These Gurkhas are even selling their property to pay for their visas."

He added that widows of former soldiers who are living in Kent have still not received official paperwork, meaning they have no rights to pensions.

"Asylum seekers come here with nothing and the Government supports them, but the Gurkhas have to look after themselves," he said. "We would be grateful if the Home Secretary waived the fees. These Gurkhas fought for this country and they deserve that."

"Gurkhas are living here but at a different standard to other people in the UK."

Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone is home to the 2nd Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles, who are serving in Afghanistan, while nearly half the soldiers from the Maidstone-based 36 Engineers Regiment are Queen's Gurkha Engineers.



**RANK AND SMILE:** But retired Gurkhas in Nepal are suffering as they seek to relocate to the UK

# County pulls plug on Kent TV

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

TAXPAYERS have not seen the last of council-run internet television despite County Hall's decision to axe its controversial Kent TV service.

Kent County Council has announced that the contract for the station – which was funded by £1.8 million of public money – will not be extended beyond March.

Launched in 2007 and run by Bob Geldof's Ten Alps production company, the website only attracted about 2,500 visitors per day and came under attack from the opposition and taxpayers who said it was a waste of money.

However, cabinet member for performance management Cllr Roger Gough said the council had not given up on digital media entirely.

He said: "I think we will look at how in other ways this technology can best be used. We want to talk to, and with, residents and internet video will be a part of that."

"We've spent a lot of money redesigning our website and are looking at ways we could use the best aspects of Kent TV on other platforms. There's no doubt we'll be making use of



**UNDER FIRE:** The much criticised Kent TV website will close in March, KCC has announced

parts of it. We're working through how we could do that, but this whole business is going to be dynamic over the next few years so it's important that we do."

Kent TV was intended to be self-funding through advertising by the end of its two-year pilot, but the station only made £10,000 from that source in its first seven months.

KCC originally budgeted £1.4 million for the trial and in 2008 set aside a further £350,000 to cover any extension, which was granted last September.

KCC put a new contract out to tender late last year but it is thought none of the firms who applied to take over management of the site could have done so without funding.

Clr Gough said: "It was a tough decision but we have to set our priorities straight and the economic situation was a lot different in 2007."

"Kent TV did receive criticism but the critical thing here was finance and the environment we face. There were worthwhile programmes that we are proud of, but we had to consider where this stood in our priorities."

"Kent TV employed 11 people and it's not good for them, but we appreciate the work put in and this decision is no reflection on them."

## Soap opera

Despite almost constant criticism of the internet station, KCC said it was contributing to future savings by delivering information direct to the public. Local businesses gained free publicity from the site, which also provided careers advice and information for tourists.

And an online soap opera promoting sexual health and personal safety for young adults attracted an average audience of just under 10,000 viewers per episode late last year.

However, Kent Labour leader Cllr Leslie Christie said the ruling Tory executive should apologise for wasting resources.

He said: "Kent TV's continuance would have been a political embarrassment to them. This administration has been whingeing for years that it doesn't get enough money from the Government, but wasted £1.8 million on this."

"It is not good enough to say, 'We are living in difficult economic times'. They owe an apology for wasting resources."

Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean claimed the Tories set up Kent TV to get around the normal ban on councils owning TV channels.

She added: "We have used every opportunity to expose the Conservatives' use of taxpayers' money to buy their own TV channel, and their attempts to exaggerate its performance."

"Much of the content was boring so the viewing figures were disappointing and the channel attracted no sponsorship. This decision is almost £2m too late."

Late last year KCC announced it was facing a £200 million funding shortfall over the next three years and that 600-700 County Hall jobs would be axed.

Tory leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Kent TV was a brave and bold innovation and we learned a great deal from it. However, we are living in different economic times. Our spending has to be prioritised. We have therefore decided that Kent TV will not continue when the pilot ends in March."

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# Offenders taught the value of saying 'sorry'

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A SCHEME allowing first-time offenders to avoid punishment by apologising for their actions is to be rolled out across Kent.

The restorative justice programme has been piloted in towns and villages since last year and has proved so successful that police want every neighbourhood in the county to benefit.

It gives wrongdoers the opportunity to talk to their victims about the impact of their offences, and possibly avoid receiving criminal records by offering apologies instead. Det Insp Steve Woollett said he hoped the scheme would result in reduced crime rates in the long term, as those who have to face up to their actions are unlikely to offend again.

He added: "Evidence shows it is a very powerful tool. We want to use it as an alternative to criminalising people for low-level crimes."

"This gives officers the opportunity to use their discretion to sort issues out rather than arresting people unnecessarily."

"Evidence also shows people want apologies, they want reassurances it won't happen again and they want to see the individual make good. When cases are dealt with in this way, often the culprit will not re-offend. It also gives



STEVE WOOLLETT

closure to the victims, as they get to ask questions as to why."

The restorative justice programme was trialled last year in the Cheriton, Moreham, Hawkinge and Lydd areas of south Kent, as well as the Maidstone East, Staplehurst and Shepway wards of mid-Kent.

It was also recently launched in Tunbridge Wells, and was used to deal with a group of hoodies who regularly congregated outside a shop.

An elderly man complained to police that he was too afraid to enter the store when the youngsters were present, so officers set up a meeting between the two sides.

Det Insp Woollett said the hoodies told the man they did not mean to cause alarm by their appearance, and now say hello whenever they see him.

He added: "This is a commonsense way of dealing with problems in the community, bringing people together and resolving issues."

Restorative justice can be used for incidents ranging from minor antisocial behaviour such as graffiti, up to more serious crimes including assault and robbery.

It does not always prevent offenders from being formally warned or reprimanded within the justice system, and can also be used after conviction for more serious crimes.

Officers across the force are now being trained in restorative justice, learning how it works and when it can be used.



ON THE BEAT: PCSO Dave Ansbro - with Borden resident Jim Wood - logging concerns on his hand-held device

## Cutting out the form-filling

BOBBIES on the beat have been kitted out with new hi-tech devices allowing them to log local concerns at the touch of a button.

Constables and community support officers can use the BlackBerry-style technology to record information when talking to residents.

It allows them to build up a database of the age, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation of complainants, as well as the problems common for a particular area.

Insp Evan Jones, of the Sittingbourne neighbourhood team, said: "This technology allows officers to find out exactly what people's concerns are and how we can help them."

"There are no forms to fill in back at the

station. The data can be fed into our computer system within minutes, so officers can remain out on the beat."

The technology was launched in mid-Kent in December and six neighbourhood teams covering Faversham, Sittingbourne, the Isle of Sheppey and Maidstone have access to it.

More than 2,300 people have helped officers identify problems with issues such as littering, dog mess, speeding and graffiti.

Residents can also take part in local Partners and Community Together meetings, Have Your Say days or by contacting their neighbourhood officer.

Details for all three can be found at [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk).

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## BREAK TIME

### Academy option for Astor of Hever

A COMPREHENSIVE secondary school could be closed by the end of the year and replaced with a new academy.

The proposed changes for Astor of Hever Community School are led by Kent County Council in partnership with Woodard Schools.

If approved, the plans would include a new academy at the site in Oakwood Road, which will specialise in humanities and offer an extended timetable of breakfast clubs, after-school facilities and evening and weekend services for the community.

All pupils currently at Astor of Hever will be transferred to the new academy, which will have spaces for 950 students.

The academy would initially open in the existing buildings in January 2011 then move to purpose-built accommodation in 2014.

Existing staff, pupils and parents attended a consultation day at the school for the proposed Woodard Academy on Thursday, February 4.

Representatives from the applicant explained it wants to inspire students to have a 'can do' attitude, to engage in the community, excel at individual goals and take advantage of partnerships with organisations and businesses.

The proposal is expected to be finalised by March.

Woodard Schools was founded in 1947 by Nathaniel Woodard, a former priest of the Church of England, and is now the largest independent schools group from the church in the UK.

Other Woodard Schools sites in Kent include those in Gravesend, Orpington, Belvedere and Rochester.

# Tasmin plays into the net as pupils prepare for camp

■ BY ANNA WHITE

ATHLETIC schoolchildren have been learning new sporting tips from top England netball star Tasmin Greenway.

The wing attack national player visited the youngsters at Sutton Valence School as part of a scheme to promote sport through a series of holiday netball camps.

During her visit the talented sporting star put children of all ages through their paces to help prepare them for the upcoming camps.

The national netballer ran a two-hour training session with the 26 girls aged 15 to 18 and then another with pupils in Years 8 to 10.

She will also be able to work with four students – Charlotte Crouch, Molly Stevens, Betsy Nally and Lotte Liejsen – who all currently play netball at county level.

The 28-year-old then went to the Sutton Valence Preparatory School, in Chart Sutton, where the younger students were able to show-off the skills they have learnt in their own after-school netball club.

This year is the first time the net-it scheme will be held on Sutton Valence's courts and will take place in Easter, summer and October half terms.

Courses available will be England International and Superleague-led Junior Netball camps.

Saul Fyne, net-it director, said: "We are very excited to be coming to the Maidstone area and using Sutton Valence School courts as a venue.



ON THE BALL: Tasmin Greenway with pupils Charlotte McVarish, Kaya Jago, Charlotte Douglass and Lucy Baxter

"We want to encourage more young people to keep up netball after they leave school, if only for fitness and enjoyment."

The Maidstone-based school already encourages a wide range of sporting activities in its curriculum and after-school clubs.

It even offers scholarships for students who are academically talented in sport, as well as other areas.

Many of its students are currently competing at their chosen sport at various levels – including national.

Greenway, from Trowbridge, Wilts, plays for Surrey Storm – the superleague franchise for London and the South-East.

She was also in the World Championship Netball squad in 2007 and currently plays wing attack for the England Senior Team.

Greenway is one of the scheme's five specialist coaches, including her England team mates Rachel Dunn, Pamela Cookey and Eboni Beckford-Chambers.

For details of the netball courses, visit [www.net-it.org](http://www.net-it.org) or call 01273 771877.

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## Continuing work to improve gay rights around the world

FEBRUARY 2010 sees the latest LGBT History Month and this year – on the plus side – Kent Police, whom I've liaised with for ten years or so, have just achieved ninth place on the recent Stonewall (gay rights group) best employers list.

Further, Kent County Council has organised a Same-Sex holding hands photo exhibition at County Hall by involving locals and youngsters in particular to take part. They also surveyed on a range of minority group issues asking how best they can assist each group. Many Libraries continue to have LGBT books and DVD's available and I urge people, gay or straight, to take them out. All this helps to move things on even further from the bad old days of local Section 28 policies etc.

Kent Fire and Rescue have also been active, both at gay Pride events and advertising their

services, as well as for staff in gay magazines.

Pride in Canterbury continues to campaign and later this year Thanet gay Pride is set for July 17 in Margate and they will no doubt be advertising this soon.

On the downside, there's been a four-fold increase in attacks on minority groups including gays in the UK, attributed to the recession. This though is no excuse. The recent conviction of a man in Bromley for a murderous attack on a gay couple shows both the risks we gay people still face as well as the action that can be taken. The murderer received a 32-year sentence!

I therefore urge all LGBT people to continue to report any attacks/abuse, even verbal ones, on the countywide freephone link 0800 328 9162.

Even minor ones, as it gives the authorities an idea of where trouble spots are. In solidarity, any racist attacks, whether on straights or gays, should be reported via freephone 0800 138 1624.

Worldwide sees varied reports. China instituted gay cafes and nearly allowed a gay pageant, but this was stopped by police over

'supposed' procedural matters. Seems operating even slightly outside state sponsorship there can be tricky. In Mumbai, India, things appear to be slowly improving but in Africa it's far worse for LGBT persons especially in Uganda, Malawi and Nigeria, though Rwanda and South Africa may be brighter spots.

Campaigner Peter Tatchell and people around the world, including many politicians, have been campaigning against the hatred that's inspired by both old colonial-laws and religion.

On religion, we've seen the departure of two homophobic CoE Bishops in Kent, Nazir Ali at Rochester and to an extent, S Venner at Dover, but the Pope is due in the UK in September and will address both houses of Parliament. It's likely many groups will be wanting a word about his, and the Church's, ongoing opposition to progress on many social and sexuality issues.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

### GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



**EMAIL:** Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: [yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk)



**TEXT:** MAID then your message to: 818000 (please remember to include you name)

### LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on **01303 817185** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk).

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

\* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion



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# yourcompetition

## WIN! Tickets to the 2010 Vitality Show



**RUNNING** from March 18-21 in London's Earls Court 2, the UK's largest health, beauty, fitness and wellbeing event for women returns.

So whether you want to revitalise, invigorate, inspire or simply spoil yourself, make sure this year's Vitality Show - sponsored by leading insurer Simplyhealth - is a confirmed date in your diary.

New attractions include the inspirational One Life Show, POM Wonderful Kitchen, with resident chefs on hand to whip up tasty, healthy snacks using pomegranate juice; a skin consultation bar offering free advice on how to keep

your skin looking fresh and young; and a gluten free village, full of information and advice on the latest allergies and food intolerances.

Whether it's taking some time out for yourself or finding the perfect opportunity to get together with the girls, this year's Vitality Show is the ideal place to be - and we've got ten pairs of tickets to give away PLUS great goodies from some of the exhibitors!

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to

Vitality Show Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is March 10, 2010.

**Question:** Where is the Vitality Show being held?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk), or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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# yourletters

## TALK TIME

### RACHEL COPPINS

The volunteer talks about her work with youngsters and what the vinvolved team offers

#### Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am the Youth Volunteer Advisor for the Kent & Medway vinvolved Team which is a service of Voluntary Action within Kent. vinvolved is the national youth volunteering programme created by v, the independent charity whose aim is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers and create a culture where volunteering comes naturally.

#### What is your job at vinvolved?

My role is to create and develop new and exciting volunteering opportunities for 16 to 25 year olds. I work with organisations and projects to help them set up opportunities for young people that are both diverse and inspiring. I then recruit volunteers through schools, colleges and the wider community.

#### How can people get in touch?

They can call me on 07939 933815 or 01227 455187 or alternatively send me a message on Facebook. My user name is Rachel Vs.



## YOUR LETTERS

### Graveyard used as public toilet, say angry workers

### Cemetery has been abused for years

I live near the graveyard mentioned in the article on last week's Yourmaidstone page three and often see people using it as a public toilet.

It is also regularly used as a meeting place for youngsters and homeless people to drink alcohol. It has been used in this way for many years, so I am pleased to see someone has finally brought it to your attention, hopefully now something will be done about it.

I think the people abusing the graveyard do not see it as a place loved ones were put to rest but as a shaded area away from town and the authorities.

Perhaps if more was done to maintain the graves and security was stepped up they wouldn't use it anymore, but then they would probably find another public area to ruin.

Russell Thomas, Brewer Street  
By email

### Action needs to be taken to stop yobs

I was shocked to read your article last week, on page three, about the way some disrespectful people use a graveyard in Maidstone town centre.

If the cemetery was by a church in a village this would not happen, but because it's in a town and near offices some people think it's acceptable. I think it is disgusting behaviour.

How would they like it if someone was urinating on their mother or father's grave? I doubt very much they would approve. It's all well and good saying the situation is being monitored by police, but something needs to be done to stop it. These yobs should be caught and prosecuted for anti-social behaviour.

Maureen Bell, Heath Road, Coxheath  
By letter

### But we need all services at hospital

After reading the story about the launch of the new pathology lab at Maidstone Hospital, I was first of all pleased to see the hospital is developing its services, but then I remembered it is the same NHS Trust board which is taking away our maternity unit.

If the NHS Trust wants to develop and enhance

the Maidstone site then why are they moving the consultant-led services to another hospital?

They seem to be creating 'super' hospitals which offer various departments, at two different locations.

Surely it would be better to have the same high-quality services at both hospitals rather than splitting them between the two?

The residents of Maidstone and

Tunbridge Wells deserve to have all healthcare services, not just a selection.

Sharon Bubb, Barming  
By email

### Teachers did not get an extra holiday

I read your blog about lazy teachers taking holiday at the first sign of snow.

I am a teacher, and had been perfectly prepared to get into work, and did on two days when some neighbours (not teachers) did not. It is not teachers who decide if a school is shut it is a decision made by a headteacher based quite rightly on a specific set of circumstances.

If the school site is dangerous (there is only so much caretakers can do to prevent things like ice) I can guarantee some litigious parents might see this as a cash cow. The roads outside many schools, including footpaths, were



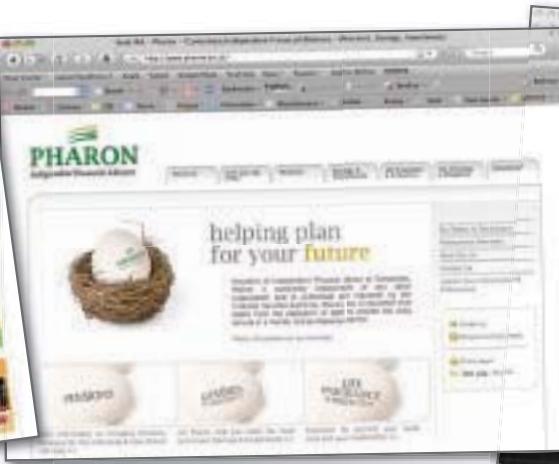
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dangerously icy this year as these were not gritted.

Also I am not aware of any of my colleagues who had a 'holiday'. I used it to plan lessons and to catch up with my workload, teachers usually work late into the night, on weekends and during 'holidays' to stay on top of things.

If teaching was so easy and teachers so lazy one wonders why so many have left and leave the profession early? As a late entrant to the profession myself my previous career was much less stressful and involved much less work. Also no one seems to mention that teachers are doomed never to get a cheap holiday during termtime.

If I wanted a lazy job I could go and do some office work, then I might have time to indulge in Facebook, twitter etc. However ultimately I am a professional, who wishes to impart the best quality education I can to tomorrow's workforce, so I suppose I shall remain in the classroom.

**Gavin Gray, by email**

## My school was fully staffed during snow

In our school it is not the teachers who make the decision to close, it's

the headteacher so please do not blame the teachers.

In my school we all went to work every day and completed our nine hour working day in school and still took work home every night.

**Margaret Wittich, by email**

## Brush up on your child's oral health

The UK's leading oral health charity has urged the Government to focus on the prevention of dental decay in under 5s following a new report into children's health.

The British Dental Health Foundation is calling for more awareness after a report by the Audit Commission highlighted the increasing gap in health care between children in deprived communities compared to the rest of the population.

The independent watchdog figures show around 150,000 more children have decayed, missing and filled teeth in spearhead areas compared with the rest of the country – this has increased dramatically over the last ten years.

It was determined that children living in disadvantaged areas are 54 per cent more likely to live in workless households and face poorer

health conditions than under fives in less deprived areas. Out of these children one in five have been judged to have poor dental health.

Evidence shows establishing good oral health during a child's early years may play a vital role in regards to better health in later life, with diminished levels of heart disease, strokes and diabetes.

The report also demonstrated that children from minority groups have poorer health levels, with parents less likely to take advantage of mainstream health services.

Dental disease is the most common preventable childhood disease. Parents are responsible for helping their children to develop a good oral health routine and ensure regular visits to the dentist.

The main cause of tooth decay is not the amount of sugar or acid in the diet, but how often it is eaten or drunk – the more often a child has sugary or acidic foods or drinks, the more likely they are to have decay.

It is important to keep sugary and acidic foods to mealtimes only. If you want to give your child a snack, try to stick to cheese, vegetables and fruit, but not dried fruit.

For information and expert advice on your children's teeth call the Dental Helpline on 0845 063 1188, or see [www.dentalhealth.org](http://www.dentalhealth.org).

**Dr Nigel Carter, by email**

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# **your maidstone music**

# Top line-up takes to the stage for Haiti benefit gig



BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A CHARITY fundraising gig in aid of the people of Haiti after last month's devastating earthquake is being held at Folkestone's Quarterhouse venue tonight.

A wide variety of music from punk and indie to country blues will be on stage in order to cater for as many tastes as possible and help raise money for the estimated two million left homeless by the disaster.

Janine Gray, who helped organise the gig, said: "I have so far found everyone we approached to be incredibly generous with their time and money.

"Googies Art Cafe raised £280 towards our fund already and the Quarterhouse staff have been incredibly helpful – I know we are going to have a huge list of people to thank by the end of this project.

"I am really excited by the line-up so far – we have one or two more things in the pipeline to come out next."

Chatham man Pete Molinari, who was discovered by Billy Childish, is arguably the biggest draw of the night.

The Archie Wah Wahs, a band described as playing catchy ska songs with lyrics about broken hearts and unhappy endings, combined with feelings of optimism and hopefulness, are also on the bill.

Grunge folk artist Tess, one of the people

**DOING THEIR BIT:** Medway's Pete Molinari, left, will join The Dealers, above, at the Quarterhouse's fundraising gig.

And Pierre Vincent's band The Dealers will be showcasing their new line-up, which includes violinist Gemma and percussionist Malcolm, playing tracks from album Charcoal on Black Paper together with a back catalogue of self-penned material and the odd well-chosen cover.

Fellow organiser John Baker, who runs the County Hardware shop in Cheriton, said "I really felt that I wanted to do something that would be a great fundraiser for the benefit of the earthquake victims."

"We hope to give music fans a terrific night out at the new arts venue Quarterhouse at the same time."

There will also be a charity raffle or auction for prizes and other events. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £9 on the door. Visit [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk).

door. Visit [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk).

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**DOUBLE WHAMMY:** Pop duo Callista perform Kings of Leon's Use Somebody.



The logo for UpCDownC, featuring a red television set icon with a white play button in the center, flanked by two blue vertical bars.

**ROCKING IT:** UpCDownC play songs from their set on The Ether.

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## TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 The Suspects - 27/2 King Edward VII, Margate
  - 2 Craig Sheridan - 27/2 The Alma, Deal
  - 3 Shelta - 5/3 Water Rats, Grays Inn Road
  - 4 Audio Bullys - 19/3 Westcoast Bar, Margate
  - 5 Rock Night (various artists, including Colt 44) King Edward VII, Margate



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Sarah Tappenden runs the popular salon and is proud to call herself a one man band.

"I offer a warm, friendly and caring service – clients are my friends and are not just there to pay the bills," she said.

"I have always been interested in people and their looks and went to Thanet Technical College to study both hairstyling and business.

"My friend owned the business originally and approached me to see if I would like to take over a hairstyling business in the heart of Sutton Valence – an attractive and thriving village."

The salon is housed in a building which

belongs to Sutton Valence School and is part of the faculty's historic site.

Sarah explained what is currently popular among clients who want to ensure that their crowning glory is kept up to standard.

"I try to keep my treatments affordable and accessible for everybody as well as keep up with current colouring trends. Colour service is definitely one of the most popular at the moment."

Capelli Hair, High Street, Sutton Valence ME17 3AG. Call: 01622 843 462.

## TOP TIPS

### Village Hotel

Three hours after exercise, you should consume a regular meal (with protein in it) to continue the muscle rebuilding process. Do not 'treat' yourself to sweets or alcohol as your muscles will still be crying out for protein. Call: 01622 656944.

### Kings Hill Medical Practice

If you have any health concerns do not hesitate to contact the practice for well-informed advice on all treatments and services that are on offer. Staff are always on hand to help with any queries or questions. Call: 01732 844244.

### Vida

Having a wardrobe spring clean-de-cluttering is liberating to make way for new bright handbags and accessories in this season's colours: purple is big, green is gorgeous, coral is chic, grey is great. So get set to sparkle for spring! Call: 01303 814600.

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# Brothers in arms

Enthralling musical tells tale of twin brothers thrown together by a twist of fate after being separated at birth

### BLOOD BROTHERS

Thursday, February 23 to Saturday, February 27  
Assembly Halls Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



FAMILY ties refuse to be broken in Willy Russell's enduringly popular musical, Blood Brothers.

The record-breaking show has been thrilling audiences since 1988 and continues to enthrall with its tale of twin brothers separated at birth.

Set in Liverpool, the show is one of the longest-running musicals in history and has enjoyed a record-breaking run on Broadway, where it was nominated for seven Tony Awards.

Now this moving story of two brothers whose fates are intertwined comes to Kent, supported by KOS Media.

When Mrs Johnstone discovers that she is pregnant with twins, financial desperation forces her to confront a heart-breaking dilemma.

Her wealthy employer is unable to have children and is keen to take one of the babies off her hands, so Mrs Johnstone reluctantly agrees to the deal and promises never to reveal the truth.

Over the years, the boys grow up on opposite sides of the tracks and it appears that their lives could not be more different. All the while, they are watched by Mrs Johnstone who continues to guard her increasingly painful secret. But a twist of fate will put them on a collision course as it becomes clear that blood really is thicker than water.

For this tour, the role of Mrs Johnstone is played by former New Seekers star, Lyn Paul. She first played the role in 1997 and is considered by many fans to be the quintessential Mrs Johnstone, bringing out the character's grief and love in a remarkable way and belting out the tunes with her fantastic voice.

The show's memorable score is renowned for its honest and moving lyrics, including the songs A Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and Tell Me It's Not True.

Willy Russell is a renowned writer with a number of notable plays under his belt, including Educating Rita and Shirley Valentine, both of which were made into hit films. He has also written films, books and film scores and is considered one of the most successful playwrights of his generation.

Tickets are priced from £14.50 to £30.50. To book call the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or visit the website at [www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk).

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with  
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**JEFF LANG**

Friday, February 19  
Village Hall, Hunton



VIRTUOSO guitarist Jeff Lang has travelled from the other side of the world to perform for a Kent audience.

The highly respected Australian musician performs in hypnotic style, captivating listeners with his sweet vocals and astonishing talent.

Anyone who can count such acclaimed artists as Richard Thompson and John Butler among his fans must be worth listening to, so do not miss the chance to see him perform this week.

Transcending the boundaries of traditional folk, blues, country and other roots music, Lang's sound has secured a unique niche in the music world.

Over the last decade he has built a strong fan base in the US, Europe and Australia, winning new admirers with his constant touring and continually evolving sound.

A favourite on the festival circuit, he has also toured with Bob Dylan, Ani Di Franco, Dr John, Loudon Wainwright III and many



other artists. He is currently touring to promote his 16th album, Half Seas Over, which received a four-star review from Rolling Stone magazine.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £8. To book call 01622 820683/820127.

**PAUL DUNTON & GUESTS**

Thursday, February 18  
Pizza Express, Maidstone



DISCOVER the county's best unsigned music acts as the Paul Dunton & Guests showcase returns to Maidstone.

Held twice weekly in Tunbridge Wells, the candlelit event gives a platform for local acts and reveals the wealth of talent that Kent has to offer. Now Dunton brings the show to the Music Room at Pizza Express for another evening of great music.

Walking on Sunday is an engaging trio whose alternative acoustic style also includes

hints of melodic pop. Next on the bill is an atmospheric performance from Dunton and his orchestral Crew, playing his piano pop with a classical twist.

With talented guitarist Marc Brereton and captivating vocalist Charlotte Brereton, The Original Sinners will grip the audience with their blend of southern rock and blues, laced with sweet country melodies.

The headline act will be Tom Williams and The Boat (pictured), a six-piece 'anti-folk' band from Tunbridge Wells who made a big noise at Radio One's Big Weekend in Maidstone in 2008.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £7. To book call 0845 602 7017 or visit [www.pizzaexpresslive.com](http://www.pizzaexpresslive.com).

**WHO'S BAD**

Wednesday, February 24  
Central Theatre, Chatham



CELEBRATE the legacy of a pop legend when top tribute band Who's Bad visits Medway.

From the early days of the Jackson Five through to his solo glory years, the career of Michael Jackson is explored with a whistle-stop tour through the decades.

Complete with glittering gloves and glitzy jackets, Who's Bad is an infectious party show that will have both Jackson devotees and fans of great pop music tapping their toes.

Who's Bad was formed in 2004 and since the death of Jackson last year, it has become a fantastic way for fans to pay tribute to the legendary artist.

Direct from the US, the show is visiting just two Kent venues during this tour and promises to entertain audiences with outstanding music, moves and memories.

The song list includes such timeless hits as Thriller, The Way You Make Me Feel, Bad,



Beat It, The Girl is Mine, Earth Song, Man in the Mirror, ABC, Smooth Criminal, You Rock My World, Billie Jean, Don't Stop Til You Get Enough and many more.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £23.50/£22.50. To book call 01634 338338 or visit [www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk](http://www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk).

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**MAIDSTONE LEISURE****My Fair Lady near a street where you live**

WOULDNT it be lovely to enjoy a classic musical performed in Tonbridge this week?

Surrey Opera presents My Fair Lady, the popular story of a Cockney flower girl who is transformed into a lady.

The is at the EM Forster Theatre at Tonbridge School from tomorrow until to Saturday.

Performances start at 7.30pm daily, with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday, and tickets cost £19.50/£17.50, concessions available. To book call 01732 304241.

**Dance company to show how much it has evolved**

WITNESS the evolution of talented dancers when the Hazlitt Theatre hosts a showcase by Directions Performing Arts.

Two years after their first performance on the Hazlitt stage, the company returns with its new show Evolution, in which students demonstrate their exciting talent.

The show is at the theatre from today until Saturday. Tickets are £11/£9.50. Book online at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01622 758611.

**Local band celebrating a decade of performing**

FACE to Face celebrated their 10th anniversary on the circuit last year.

The local band covers rock hits with vocals from a female singer who has been leading the band for more than a decade.

See at the Walnut Tree in Forge Lane, East Farleigh, at 9pm tomorrow. For more information call 01622 726368.

**Acoustic selection from accomplished guitarist**

FROM rock and pop to blues and acoustic, Paul Wells has more than 30 years' experience as a guitarist.

On Friday he will be playing songs by a wide variety of artists when he visits a pub in Maidstone. Find out more about him at [www.paulwellssolo.piczo.com](http://www.paulwellssolo.piczo.com).

Paul is playing at the Bower Inn in Tonbridge Road at 9pm. For more information about the pub call 01622 677181.

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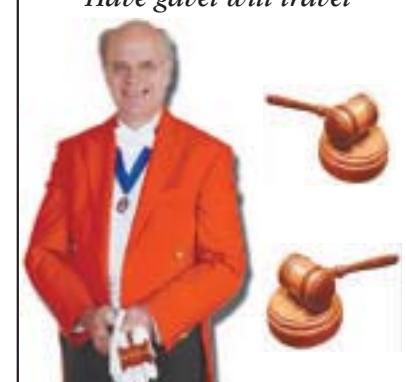


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**ON GENERAL RELEASE**

EDGE OF DARKNESS (15)



Mel Gibson and Ray Winstone star in this dark thriller, adapted from a 1985 BBC mini-series. Gibson plays a veteran detective forced to investigate the murder of his daughter after she's killed in front of him.

PONYO (U)



This is the latest animated masterpiece from Oscar-winning anime legend Hayao Miyazaki, drawing on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy-tale The Little Mermaid for inspiration.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (U)



Walt Disney makes a break with tradition by casting its first-ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the classic Grimm Brothers' fairytale.

# Del Toro has a few hairy moments in newest role

■ BY DAMON SMITH

SOME of cinema's most iconic creatures including Count Dracula, Frankenstein's monster and The Mummy hark back to the golden age of Universal Studios in the 1930s and 1940s, when Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi and Claude Rains stalked the big screen with malicious intent.

The furry fiend known as The Wolf Man first howled at the silvery moon in 1941, with a suitably hirsute Lon Chaney Jr in the lead role.

Almost 70 years later, the eponymous beast runs free again across the blood-spattered English countryside in director Joe Johnston's affectionate remake.

Gleefully gory and tongue-in-cheek camp, The Wolfman is a diverting yarn, so long as you accept the film in the spirit it is intended; as a B-movie with expensive make-up and visual effects.

The film opens by establishing the existence of the voracious creature in the woods surrounding the late 19th century hamlet of Blackmoor.

At the behest of his brother's fiancee, Gwen Conliffe (Emily Blunt), stage actor Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to the sleepy community to help search for his sibling Ben, who has vanished without trace.

After a fractious reunion with his estranged father (Sir Anthony Hopkins) and manservant Singh, Lawrence discovers that Ben is dead, eviscerated by a creature of the night.

Scotland Yard Inspector Aberline arrives in Blackmoor to investigate the brutal slaying, and witnesses the devastation of the beast



**HAIR-RAISING:** Benicio Del Toro plays The Wolfman

firsthand after it attacks Lawrence and leaves its mark upon the nobleman.

Lawrence grows ever closer to Gwen and as the next full moon looks down upon the village, something ungodly stirs in the Talbot mansion, hungry for human flesh...

With graphic scenes of mutilation, decapitation and dismemberment, The Wolfman certainly doesn't stint on the fake blood as the tit-

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ular predator slashes through an entire supporting cast, and a few of the lead actors too.

Director Johnston orchestrates some tense set pieces, with the requisite edge-of-seat jolts and scares. The lighting design is especially effective, concealing characters and their sins in the shadows, lit by the occasional flash from a gun barrel.

Lawrence and Gwen's romance is too hurried to be credible, undermining the tearful finale.

Antony Sher out-camps the lot of them with a ridiculous accent as Dr Hoenneger, the London-based medic who foolishly believes Lawrence's lycanthropy is all in his tortured mind.

He'll learn... the hard way.

**THE WOLFMAN**

Certificate 15

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## WOMEN seeking men

**MATCH OF THE DAY!** Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **T**

**LOOKIN' A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE!** 25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 **T**

**NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...** Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, my time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **T**

**SOUND GOOD?** Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, yoghurt, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 **T**

**FANCY A Cuddle?** Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 **T**

**COULD I BE THE ONE?** Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835 **T**

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **T**

**HAPPY DADS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5ft4, size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy family, Tenbridge. Wells. Box 308734 **T**

**A FAIRYTALE ENDING!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **T**

**STARRY NIGHTS** Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair, enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 **T**

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **T**

**SEALED WITH A KISS** Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **T**

**GROW OLD WITH ME** Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring, I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164 **T**

**SEIZE THE DAY** Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428668 **T**

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **T**

**HISTORIC MEETING?** Mum of three, 36, long mousy hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, sees kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 446093 **T**

**CUTE AS CAN BE** Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **T**

**MEND A BROKEN HEART** Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopefully happiness - no time wasters! Box 461031 **T**

## African Diamond

African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companion-ship and more. Box 446632 **T**

**FAMILY ORIENTATED** Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 460404 **T**

**GENUINE REPLIES ONLY** Bubble female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Box 460698 **T**

**EASY TO LOVE** Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460698 **T**

**STAY TRUE** Attractive, curly, single mum, size 18, 44, kind, genuine, 55+, loyal, loving, seeking a man for similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **T**

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curly single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **T**

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL** Young-looking 48yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 **T**

**TAKE IT EASY** Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973 **T**

**YOUNG AT HEART** Young, 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy. Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 452311 **T**

**IT COULD BE US** Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde/brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601 **T**

**MY PRINCE?** Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 **T**

**NORMAL GAL** Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 866380 **T**

**ETERNALLY YOURS** Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build, WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 456365 **T**

**YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET** Young-looking, hard-working 50yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heated. Box 883410 **T**

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 443466 **T**

**HELP ME OPEN UP** Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown/blue hair eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **T**

**CALL ME** Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and WLTM nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 456481 **T**

**TAKE A LITTLE TIME** Social lady, 41, 5ft3, gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **T**

**TLC ON OFFER** Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, WLTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271 **T**

**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?** Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 **T**

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE** Lovely, glossy blonde, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out. WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **T**

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green/blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seek loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461031 **T**

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**GOING SWIMMINGLY!** Since, down-to-earth male, 47, fit, good-looking, athletic, own business, likes swimming, cinema, music, gigs, walking, seeking soul, laid-back lady, 28-45, for potential LTR. Box 440467

**ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!** Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTM female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529 **T**

**YOURS TRULY** Caring guy, 50, Maidstone-based, looking for someone that little bit special to socialise with and enjoy the good things in life. Box 860490 **T**

**MAYBE BABY** Kind intelligent, 52, 5ft7, average build, grey-green eyes, enjoys reading, walks and meeting people, WLTM similar attributes lady for friendship, maybe more? Folkestone. Box 465867 **T**

**MAKE A DATE** Fun male 58" brown eyes, white hair, medium build, I like animals and dining out. Box 462517 **T**

**IS THERE ONE OUT THERE FOR ME?** Nice guy, 33, 5ft9, slim, dark hair, medium build, I like clubs, cinema, and travelling. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 456513 **T**

**ALONG THE SHORE** Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 58", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465817 **T**

**BE MINE** Slim male, 44, 5'11", dark hair and eyes, likes going out, walking, looking for a single, honest and loving lady, 25-50, who is exotic. Maidstone. Box 460591 **T**

**COME AND GET ME!** Ashford male, 44, dark hair and blue eyes, 5ft6, slim, likes clubbing and pubs, looking for a nice female for a good relationship. Sittingbourne. Box 462529 **T**

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Attractive, respectable British Asian male, 35, black hair, golden skin, muscular build, enjoys conversations, cooking, walks, picnics, DIY seeks a slim, sensible, fun woman. Maidstone. Box 462529 **T**

**PISCES OR CAPRICORN?** Star-struck lady, 53, 5ft1, slim, medium build, enjoys dancing, walks, people, attempting art and poetry. WLTM new male friends for socialising, laughter and moving on. Box 872147 **T**

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL** Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 471100 **T**

**LOVING & HUGGY** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red/green hair, eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464902 **T**

**MAKING IT A WHIRL** Single dad, 34, 6ft, stocky, gosh, seeking a fun and caring single lady for true romance. Maidstone. Box 462509 **T**

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**BONMARCHÉ**

Cotton print skirt, price £22



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**MATALAN**  
Papaya tulip mini skirt,  
price £12

#### DOROTHY PERKINS

Floral tiered print,  
price £22



#### JANE NORMAN

Tulip mini skirt,  
price £28



**MATALAN**  
Papaya tulip mini skirt,  
price £12

**MATALAN**  
Papaya tulip mini skirt,  
price £12

## MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

### Strut like a peacock at new fashion shop

GET hot new fashions at cool prices when a new Peacocks store opens in Canterbury on Thursday.

The new store in Canterbury High Street gives shoppers the chance to buy the latest designer-inspired women's, men's and children's fashions at high street prices. As well as increasing the city's shopping options, the new store will also bring 33 new jobs to Canterbury.

To see the latest ranges go online at [www.peacocks.co.uk](http://www.peacocks.co.uk).

### Upcycle your look at the Recreation Store

SWAP something you do not want for something you fancy at the Recreation Store in Dover.

The shop in Bench Street closes at the end of this month, so don't miss your last chances to shop for 'upcycled' pieces. The swap shop is open from 11am to 3pm every day except Sundays.

On Saturday, February 27, the store will be holding a 'one day only' sale from 11am to 3pm. To find out more visit the website at [www.remadeindover.net](http://www.remadeindover.net).

### Bake your way to winning £100 voucher

CUSTOMERS can get involved in the celebrations as White Stuff in Sevenoaks marks its first birthday.

On Friday customers are invited to bring along their culinary creations to the boutique in High Street and take part in a birthday cake competition. Two special guests will judge the contest at 4pm and the best baker will win £100 White Stuff vouchers. Cupcakes will be sold with proceeds for [www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk). Visit [www.whitestuff.com](http://www.whitestuff.com).

### It's finally hair! Malika opens Bluewater salon

DISCOVER that hair removal does not have to be hair-raising as Malika opens its new salon at Bluewater.

Using the ancient technique of threading, staff remove hair and shape eyebrows in a relaxing setting with soothing music in the background. The company already has four successful threading boutiques in London and now customers at Bluewater can fit a treatment into their day of shopping.

Visit the website at [www.malika.co.uk](http://www.malika.co.uk).

### Make money from your old CDs and DVDs

CLEAR out the clutter in this digital age and make money from your old CDs, DVDs and games.

With more people downloading their music, games and films, find out how to profit from your unwanted disks at [www.musicmagpie.co.uk](http://www.musicmagpie.co.uk). The website is free to use and pays out nearly £200,000 a month for old items, before reselling them to specialist retail outlets and distributors.

Find out how you can trade in your old gear for cash at [www.musicmagpie.co.uk](http://www.musicmagpie.co.uk).

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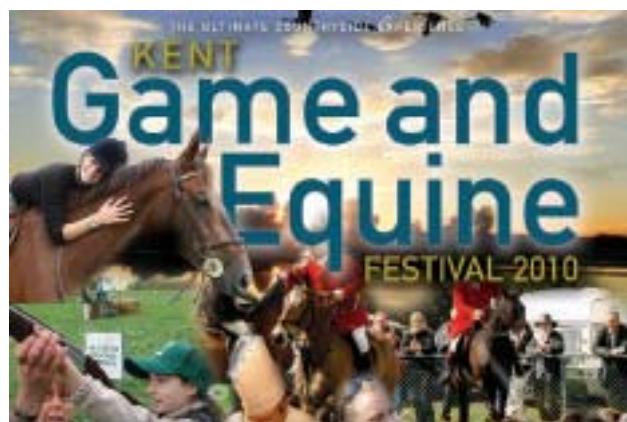
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## Breathtaking deep-blue beauty

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

WITH dry desert heat and healthy coral just hours away in Egypt, there's no reason not to learn to dive.

All scuba-diving novices receive the same instruction: never go anywhere without your buddy. That relationship, my instructor in Egypt explained, can keep you alive.

Having spent two days learning to scuba-dive among the colourful reefs of the Gulf of Aqaba, northern Egypt, dive-master John decided we were now ready for a deep dive.

"This site is called the Blue Hole," he says. "There's nothing to worry about, although the start involves going upside down through a tunnel."

Wishing myself back to our five-star hotel Le Meridien Dahab – a cool breath of modern luxury just a few miles away – I took a deep breath. Then remembered I'm not supposed to do that. For newcomers, the initial stages of learning to dive can test your nerves and patience.

Your first day will be spent kneeling underwater in a cold swimming pool, wearing fins and strapped to an oxygen tank.



**FLOATING FREE:** Diving on the Gulf of Aqaba reefs

As you are repeatedly asked to fill your face-mask with water, forced to remove your oxygen supply and told off for crashing while attempting not to shoot to the surface, you may find yourself questioning your choice of holiday activity.

Particularly when just metres away other guests are being served cocktails by the waiters and revelling in a delightfully temperate climate. Yet I made it through those testing times and, the worst over, our dive-master takes us on a tour of the coral.

Pointing out various fish, he keeps making a

strange hand signal which I eventually realise means "sea turtle". Spotting one is an unworldly experience and I realise how lucky I am to be there.

Our group stops to stare into dark holes, where fishy eyes peer back out of the gloom, before swimming through tiny clouds of bright blue fishes, teased out of their hideouts. The coral is in beautiful condition and home to a range of fish, including cleaner wrasse which swim into the mouth of our fun-loving dive-master.

Our hotel, Le Meridien Dahab, is on the outskirts of the former Bedouin village of Dahab, 40 miles from Sharm El Sheikh.

Dominated by a long strip of shops, bars and restaurants, there's still no way to avoid the 'hard sell' typical of Egypt, but the overall atmosphere of the town is hippy rather than commercial.

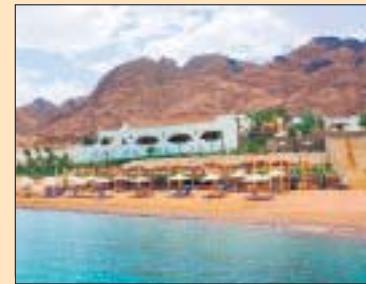
Bedouin-style cafe and bars, where you sit on cushions sipping a drink and looking out to sea, are hard to beat after a day in the sea. Saying that, guests of Le Meridien are genuinely hard-pressed to find a reason to leave their hotel. On a long curve of land overlooking the sea away from the town, the complex boasts a PADI National Geographic dive centre, windsurf centre, kids' club, fitness centre, tennis courts, three restaurants, five pools, a spa, as well as a beautiful beach.

### FACT FILE: EGYPT

<b>Time difference</b>	+Two hours (GMT)
<b>Capital</b>	Cairo
<b>Language</b>	Standard Arabic
<b>Population</b>	77,500,000
<b>Currency</b>	Egyptian pound
<b>Religion</b>	Muslim

Sarah O'Meara travelled to Le Meridien Dahab Resort, pictured below, with Tropical Sky Scuba Diving, which offers seven nights' half-board breaks from £759 in June, including flights ex-Gatwick, transfers, taxes and surcharges.

Package includes return flights ex-Gatwick with Thomson, transfers, taxes and surcharges. Reservations: 0870 907 9605 and [www.holidays4scubadiving.co.uk](http://www.holidays4scubadiving.co.uk).



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## YOUR TV REVIEW



**EXPERIENCE:** Liberal Democrat Mark Oaten was one of the politicians to try life on the other side

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

### TOWER BLOCK OF COMMONS

Channel 4, 9pm, Monday

ANY show which pits high-profile politicians with some of the least well-off in society is bound to be must-watch television.

It's the car-crash compulsiveness of it all, as we eagerly anticipate our elected officials tripping up over what they find in some of Britain's worst council estates, bringing the reality sharply home. But to their credit, the cross-selection of MPs who signed up to live with their less well-heeled hosts seemed to adapt and learnt a great deal in this four-part series.

Among those who dared to venture out of Westminster was Lib Dem MP Mark Oaten, who arguably had the most to gain in his attempt to rehabilitate his political career.

Jeering lads mocked him about his cavorting with a male prostitute, the scandal which dashed his party leadership hopes. Visibly shaken, he was later seen lying face down, with his host Cathy pitying him and saying how much the revelations still have an

effect on him – a remarkable turning of the tables.

But he later proved his worth by helping a mum on benefits keep to her weekly shopping budget and started a campaign to get the dreary grey edifice of a tower torn down.

Austin Mitchell was the Labour representative, a 75-year-old voted into office by the working man but now finding himself strangely out of his comfort zone. The producers even offered him the use of a whole council flat in Hull, sharing with his wife Linda and sparing him the joylessness of sleeping on someone else's couch.

No sooner had they moved than they started to redecorate the place. Mr Mitchell, who was recently forced to pay back £10,000 in expenses, had to cook for and feed three children and visited a methadone dispensary with a recovering heroin addict.

He later briefly abandoned the experiment to enjoy a dinner party with friends nearby, only to return humbled and host his own.

Out of the parliamentarians, the one who seemed furthest removed from his new, unfamiliar environment was Tory man Tim Laughton. He was sent to the Newtown estate in Birmingham.

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## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



### AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19)  
IT MAY be impossible to break out of a boring rut. Instead of cursing your bad fortune, try focusing on the positive aspects. At least there is an element of security involved. Although you may have to operate by yourself, that's better than answering to a capricious supervisor.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

### TAURUS

(Apr 21-May 21)  
WORK can be very dispiriting, thanks to an oppressive supervisor who seems to think the entire work force is incapable of handling their responsibilities. For a capable person like you, this is really insulting. Fortunately, some changes are occurring on the home front.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

### LEO

(Jul 24-Aug 23)  
IT'S hard to hear harsh criticism, but if you don't acknowledge the truth of what's being said you'll never improve. Swallow your pride and take your critic's advice. Whether this means getting more training you've got learn how to walk before you can run.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

### SCORPIO

(Oct 24-Nov 22)  
YOU'RE doubtful if someone can change. Making your feelings known will only doom them to failure. Keep your feelings to yourself. They have more potential than you realise. By backing off and giving them space, you'll allow this neighbour, friend or colleague to speak out.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

### PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20)  
YOU may feel alienated from your loved ones. They all seem to think you don't have a firm grip on reality. Maybe that's true; you've always been something of a dreamer, but you needn't be ashamed of your fanciful ways, so long as they are not creating trouble for others.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

### GEMINI

(May 22-Jun 22)  
YOU can't ignore your unhappiness any longer. Although your desire to serve others has been admirable, it has been of great cost to you. You're too vivacious to resign yourself to a life of misery. Stop weighing down your schedule with non-stop work and start making time for fun.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

### VIRGO

(Aug 24-Sep 23)  
BEING too conservative with finances is depriving yourself of pleasure. Stop acting as if it is a sin to enjoy yourself. Splurging on a new outfit, gadget or piece of jewellery may seem frivolous at first, but eventually, you'll realise how starved you've been for luxury.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 21)  
SOME people don't think you have got what it takes to manage your money responsibly. This is your chance to prove them wrong. Although you've never cared much about wealth in the past, that doesn't mean you are doomed to live on a shoestring budget.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

### ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 20)  
A CLOSE relationship is showing signs of strain, mainly because of work. One or both of you is spending too much time at the office. Furthermore, the strains of professional life are beginning to seep into your domestic sphere. You need to formulate a strategy to have more fun.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

### CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23)  
SADNESS over your past may inhibit you from advancing your career. Contrary to what certain family members might think, you're an extremely talented person. Now you're more mature, you don't need their approval. However, it may be necessary to slightly alter your goals.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

### LIBRA

(Sep 24-Oct 23)  
ADOPTING a bossy attitude won't go down too well at home. Your family life is undergoing some radical changes, and the members of your clan deserve a say in what happens. This means you'll have to put some of your plans on hold for the sake of the group.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

### CAPRICORN

(Dec 22-Jan 20)  
IS SOMEONE in a position of power intimidated by your talent and standing in your way of advancement? It's possible you will have to find another situation in order to fulfil your potential. Although you hate leaving your present job, you have to admit you've hit a glass ceiling.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

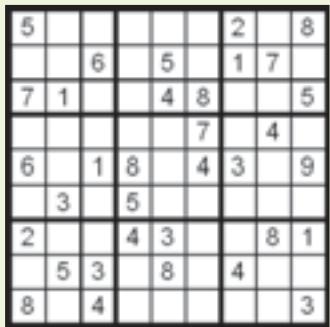
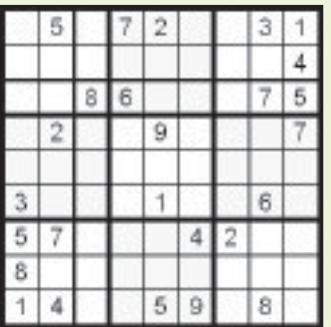
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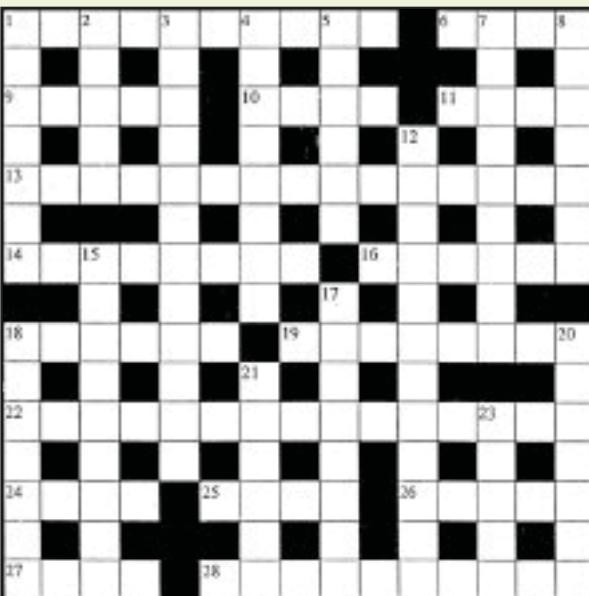
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

**EASY****MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Met laddies coming from Arabian Peninsula area (6,4)  
 6 One with less than half quantity of water (4)  
 9 Many a bird call from another bird (5)  
 10 Most of potato or some macaroni (4)  
 11 Some brand-new currency (4)  
 13 Lied about gamble, it's useless wondering (4,11)  
 14 Annual? (8)  
 16 Do me a favour (6)  
 18 It is taken to prevent ill-feeling (6)  
 19 Stranded, having done a job in the kitchen (6-2)  
 22 June's home perhaps (6,9)  
 24 Right-sounding ceremonial act (4)  
 25 Jack with duo performing self-defence (4)  
 26 Reducing expenditure sharply means dropping members from team (5)  
 27 Old priest very long time going round the bend (4)  
 28 Tough at the top (4-6)

**DOWN**

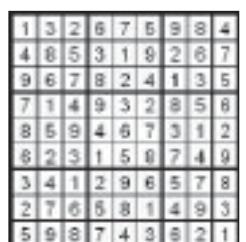
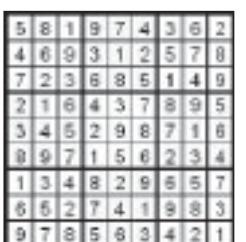
- 1 Preserve mother provided in my clutches (7)  
 2 Of nobleman Claud maybe (5)  
 3 One least likely to get the lot (6,6)  
 4 Pert note about warehouse (8)  
 5 Subscription owing put down (6)  
 7 Fit to do the job with reservations (9)  
 8 Ronald entered portion designed to be firm when eaten (2,5)  
 12 Travelling, try Beach Road to find energy source (12)  
 15 A student with two graduates thee times at school (4,5)  
 17 Father's weapon might be required for entry (8)  
 18 Book the substitute (7)  
 20 Moved sideways to first place as promised! (7)  
 21 Upsetting experience in Sumatra strangely headed off (6)  
 23 Aquatic larva Diana cultivated (5)

**SCRIBBLE HERE****QUICK CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Percussion instrument (10)  
 6 Desist (4)  
 9 Tough (anag.) (5)  
 10 Frolic (4)  
 11 Eyelid sore (4)  
 13 No longer having publicity (2,3,10)  
 14 Luminous beetle (8)  
 16 \_\_\_ the Divine (2,4)  
 18 Put before (6)  
 19 Ignorant (8)  
 22 MSc (6,2,7)  
 24 Percolate (4)  
 25 50% (4)  
 26 Go (5)  
 27 Flank (4)  
 28 Bored with life (5-5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Aware (7)  
 2 Taut (5)  
 3 Correspondent (6-6)  
 4 Behind (8)  
 5 Destroyed (6)  
 7 Slightly mad (2,3,4)  
 8 Senator (anag.) (7)  
 12 Relative (7-2-3)  
 15 Larger than usual (9)  
 17 Heavenly (8)  
 18 Pretentious (7)  
 20 Landscape (7)  
 21 Principality (6)  
 23 Antelope (5)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS****SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No124****EASY****MEDIUM****HARD**

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

**CRYPTIC SOLUTION No124**

**ACROSS:** 1 Music 4 Emblazon 8 Infrastructure 10 Schematic 11 Rodeo 12 Navy 13 Jingoes 17 Vanguard 18 Kent 22 Racer 24 Uncertain 25 Growth industry 26 Cul-de-sac 27 Thyme. **DOWN:** 1 Meissen 2 Safe haven 3 Clammy 4 Entity 5 Blue-chip 6 Alter ego 7 Oared 9 Wont 14 Inexactly 15 Burrowed 16 As much as 17 Very 19 Tinytype 20 Scenic 21 Proust 23 Corfu.

**QUICK SOLUTION No125**

Pounds 20 Scenario 21 Monaco 22 Nyasas 23 Border-in-His 25 Over-sized 27 Blister 28 Pumping 2 Tinfoil 3 Letter-writer 4 Denebelle 5 Limeade 7 Up the pole 8 Teaseon 12 Kowtowing 27 Side 24 Ooze 25 Hift 26 Leave 27 Side 28 Pinty 19 Quibbles 22 Master of Science 24 Pinty 19 Quibbles 23 Groomsmen 16 St John 18 Pinty 19 Quibbles 20 Scenic 21 Proust 23 Corfu.

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Saturday 20th February

**Tortilla Army**

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Saturday 20th February

**Trilogy**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Tuesday 23rd February

**George Keys**

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street, Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 26th February

**V Twins**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 27th February

**Salvador Charlie**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 27th February

**Captain Mildred**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 6th March

**Where's my Thing**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 6th March

**Vinyl Decent**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 12th March

**Bad Pennies**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 13th March

**Jed**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 13th March

**Nearly Famous**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 19th March

**Where's my Thing**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 20th March

**Salvador Charlie**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108



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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Eco show homes offer glimpse of the future

UP TO £60 million has been earmarked by the Government to finance the building of 600 eco show homes.

Housing minister John Healey said funds would be allocated to the country's biggest ever green home-building programme across four locations.

It is intended to provide green living for 2,000 people, with almost a third of the homes to be affordable.



As part of the schemes, new energy projects will be set up so residents take their energy from natural sources, and a low-carbon sixth form will be developed for schools.

Mr Healey said: "This is the start of the country's biggest ever eco home building programme. As a first step, 600 will be built in these four areas – most will be for sale but some will be permanent show homes."

"By 2016 there will be 10,000 eco homes in these four pioneering areas.

"This means people will be able to experience green living for themselves and see how it can change their lives and save money."

### Retro-fitting efficiency trend 'is irreversible'

CLIMATE Change Capital, the low carbon asset manager, has completed the fundraising for its first fund with £69 million of equity.

The Climate Change Property Fund focuses on retro-fitting buildings in cities to achieve improved sustainability and reduce operating costs.

The fund is 40 per cent invested with existing assets. Further investments are under consideration.

"Investors are becoming increasingly aware of how the future regulatory landscape will look and are acting accordingly," said Tim Mockett, joint founder partner of the fund.

"The trend to more energy efficient buildings, driven by legislation and the wishes of occupiers and investors, is irreversible."



# Inconvenient truth for opponents is that 'HIPs are good for market'

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Association of Home Information Pack Providers (AHIPP) has claimed that Home Information Packs (HIPs) are benefiting the housing market.

The Government introduced HIPs with the aim of speeding up the home buying and selling process.

However, the controversial packs have been branded a waste of time by critics and can cost between £200 and £400.

HIPs were introduced in August 2007 and many believe they have contributed to the fall in house prices, with estate agents frequently calling on the Government to review the packs.

However, a report from Connells Survey and Valuation has led AHIPP, the body that represents HIP companies, to claim HIPs have not hindered the housing market.

#### Tireless

Ross Bowen, managing director of Connells Survey and Valuation, said there was nine per cent more valuations in January compared with the same month last year.

Mr Bowen said it was the fifth month in a row monthly valuations activity was higher than that of the same month in the previous year.

Mike Ockenden, director general of AHIPP, said: "the report clearly negates claims that the property market is in any way adversely affected by HIPs."

He added: "We will work tirelessly in the coming months to ensure the truth about HIPs and their role in the buying and selling



**HOUSING BOON:** Supporters say statistics prove HIPs are reducing the stress and cost of buying and selling

process is getting to the people that count – the British electorate."

Shadow housing minister Grant Shapps has been negative about the packs and blamed them for slowing the property market.

If the Conservative party wins the next general election, it has pledged to scrap the packs within weeks of coming to power.

Many industry bodies, in particular the National Association of Estate Agents which has been against the packs since day one, have claimed they were a "failure" and "costly and unnecessary".

Mr Ockenden said: "Grant Shapps has consistently blamed HIPs for stifling the property market but as yet another set of statistics show, this simply isn't the case."

In reality, HIPs have enabled buyers and sellers to complete the purchase and sale of properties more quickly, with greater assurance and less stress and cost.

"Many of our members report that home sales complete routinely within 30 days when an 'exchange ready' HIP is used and it is about time that this message rather than political spin is put in the public domain."

### Stamp duty structural change welcomed

THE Government has published a consultation document – Investment in the UK Private Rented Sector – which indicates that stamp duty concessions could be introduced to encourage institutional investors to become landlords.

Ministers see private rental accommodation as playing "a critical role within the housing system" and are also looking at the possibility of using real estate investment trusts (cur-

rently the domain of commercial property investors) to encourage investment by big players. Aviva and Legal & General are already understood to be interested in expanding into the private rented sector and the Homes and Communities Agency is known to be seeking out other institutional investors for large-scale projects.

Meanwhile, the Association of Residential Letting Agents has welcomed the consulta-

tion. Spokesman Ian Potter said: "We have long been campaigning for a change in stamp duty as it has a prohibitive impact on the private rented sector, so are pleased the Government is taking heed of our recommendations."

"A change to the structure of stamp duty would encourage vital investment into bulk portfolios, helping a part of the housing sector that is going to be pivotal to that sector's recovery."

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**Larkfield £285,000**

A three bedroom bungalow benefitting from dining room and living room, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom, conservatory, double glazing, gas central heating, off road parking and garden.

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**Maidstone £89,950**

A Grade II listed three bedroom end of terrace cottage located in the town centre. The accommodation is arranged over three floors and there is no forward chain.

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

7 Oaktree Avenue, Maidstone, Kent, ME15  
We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £117,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Maidstone £125,000**

A two bedroom end of terrace home with two receptions, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Gas central heating, double glazing and a low maintenance garden.

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**Maidstone O1EO £145,000**

A superb two bedroom first floor modern apartment with en-suite shower room to master and bathroom. Lounge/dining room and kitchen. Double glazing, gas central heating and allocated parking.

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**Maidstone £147,950**

A two bedroom terraced home both with built in wardrobes benefits include a re fitted kitchen, gas central heating and double glazing. Landscaped garden and allocated parking.

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**Maidstone £160,000**

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### Maidstone

- three bed mid-terraced town house
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- hallway and garage

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- two bedroom first floor apartment
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- fully fitted modern kitchen

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### Downswood

- first floor studio maisonette
- lounge/studio
- fitted kitchen with built on oven/hob

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**Asking Price £140,000**

Three bedroom mid terrace property situated at the end of a residential cul de sac in the village of Snodland.

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Two bedroom terrace house. Separate lounge and dining room. Luxury shower room. Fitted kitchen.

**Maidstone**



**Offers in the region of £245,000**

A superbly presented Grade II Georgian townhouse arranged over four floors. Retains original features. Enclosed garden.

**Maidstone**



**£249,995**

Substantially extended four double bedroom family home situated in the sought after district of Allington.

**Maidstone**



**£249,995**

Seven bedroom bed & breakfast but could be rearranged to offer five bedrooms plus four reception rooms and conservatory

**West Malling**



**Offers in excess of £250,000**

Unique extended three bedroom semi-detached house. Office and cloakroom. West Malling village a short distance away.

**Maidstone**



**£275,000**

Viewing recommended. Popular location. Convenient for local amenities. Parking to front. Four bedrooms.

**Maidstone**



**£289,995**

originally used as a hop pickers residence around 1830, modernised with central heating, fitted kitchen and redecorated.

**Maidstone**



**Offers in excess of £350,000**

Unique and imposing period house. Four bedrooms and three receptions. Double garage and gated driveway.

**Larkfield**

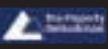
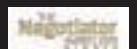


**£375,000**

Four bedroom detached family home with double garage, lake views and three reception rooms. Viewing essential.

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Enquire Larkfield

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Enquire West Malling

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**Lenham Village**

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- Large Ground Floor Apartment
- Retirement Complex

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**Langley**

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- Attractive Gardens

Enquire Headcorn

**£309,000**

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Enquire Maidstone

**£130,000-£140,000**

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Enquire Larkfield

**£149,995**

**West Malling**

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- Town Centre Location

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**Halling**

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- Parking For 3 Cars

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- Long Driveway & Garage

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**East Malling**

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- Low Maintenance Rear Gardens

Enquire Larkfield

**£174,995**

**Ryrash**

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**Maidstone**

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- Popular Cul-de-Sac Location
- Approximately 50ft Rear Garden

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- Flexible Accommodation

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**Lenham Village**

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- Four Reception Rooms
- No Chain Involved

Enquire Lenham

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**Larkfield**

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- Parking For Four Vehicles

Enquire Larkfield

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- Ensuite, Cloakroom

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Loose | £220,000-£240,000

- 3 bedroom
- Semi-detached house
- Fabulous rear garden

LOOSE OFFICE | 01622 744067



Downswood | Price Range: £185,000-£200,000

- 3 Bedroom Home In Popular Location
- 2 Reception Rooms, Conservatory
- Gas Central Heating, Part D. Glazed

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Bearsted Offers Over: £110,000

- Building Plot
- For Sale By Tender
- Closing Date 19th March 2010

BEARSTED OFFICE | 01622 730955



Bearsted: 01622 730955

Loose: 01622 744067

Kings Hill: 01732 222211

Maidstone: 01622 683737

Larkfield: 01732 847877

Snodland: 01634 245055

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## Maidstone Branch



# Connells

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £158,750 for 27 Derby Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7JB. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells 30 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1BS tel: 01622 751034, before exchange of contracts.

Maidstone £234,995



- Extended 3 Bed Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Attractive Kitchen, Garage

Maidstone £102,000



- 1 Bed Retirement Apartment
- Newly Fitted Carpets
- Conservatory
- Central Location
- Resident Parking

Maidstone £139,950



- 2 Bed Top Floor Apartment
- Balcony
- Ensuite to the Master Bedroom
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen

Maidstone £144,995



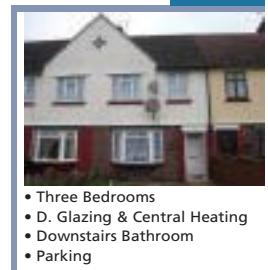
- Two Bedroom
- Rear Garden
- Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom
- No Onward Chain!!!!!!

Maidstone £167,500



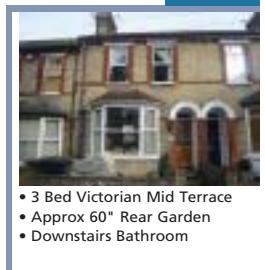
- 3 Bed End Of Terrace House
- Over Four Floors
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Maidstone £169,995



- Three Bedrooms
- D. Glazing & Central Heating
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Parking

Maidstone £180,000-£200,00



- 3 Bed Victorian Mid Terrace
- Approx 60" Rear Garden
- Downstairs Bathroom

Maidstone £309,995



- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Garage & Driveway
- D. Glazing & Central Heating
- Situated Off The Queens Road

Allington £269,995



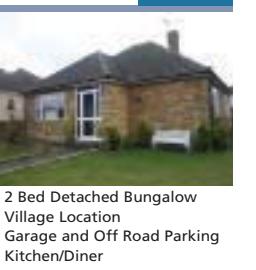
- Cox Style Semi - Detached
- Four Bedrooms, Large Garden
- Flexible Accommodation
- Garage & Driveway

Detling OIEO £800,000



- 4/5 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow
- Set Within Approx 3 Acres
- Bar & Games Room, 4 Receptions
- Garages & Block of 4 Stables

Coxheath £225,000



- 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Village Location
- Garage and Off Road Parking
- Kitchen/Diner

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## Maidstone Branch



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- cellar – on road permit parking

Heath Road £625pcm



- 2 bedroom cottage
- Garden and parking, NO Pets
- One double bedroom
- 2nd bedroom/study

The Cockpit £650pcm



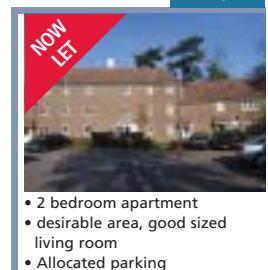
- 3 bedroom house in Marden
- Modern kitchen with appliances
- Rear enclosed paved garden
- Summer house off road parking

Dover Street £675pcm



- 3 bed roomed property
- 3rd bedroom off of 2nd
- Available Soon – call to go on the waitlist

St Francis Close £695pcm



- 2 bedroom apartment
- desirable area, good sized living room
- Allocated parking

Upper Street £675pcm



- One bedroom house with attic room (2nd room)
- Living room with dining area
- Cottage style kitchen

Church Street £725pcm



- Brand new 2 bed – double bedroom apartment
- Open plan living area with modern kitchen

Glebe Lane £675pcm



- 2 double bedroom apartment
- Spacious kitchen Modern bathroom
- Carpets and gas central heating
- Communal garden parking for 2 cars

Sheldon Court £200pcm



- 5 bedroom east conversion
- New kitchen with modern units
- 5 burner cooker, dishwasher
- 5 double bedrooms, 2 with en suites

Salisbury Road £750pcm



- 2 bedroom terrace house with some furniture
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Enclosed garden with lawned area

Tel: 0845 8732419 • maidstonelet@connells.co.uk

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Two bedroom terrace house, rear garden, lovely quiet retirement development



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**Alexander Street, Maidstone £450 pcm**  
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**Rochester Street, Chatham £650 pcm**  
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**Linden Road, Coxheath - £395pcm**  
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**St Andrews Gardens, Maidstone £695pcm**  
Two bedroom apartment, gas central heating, communal garden and balcony



**Western Road, Maidstone £650pcm**  
2 bedroom Victorian terrace, gas central heating, garden



**The Sovereigns, Barming £750pcm**  
Two bedroom apartment, Storage heating, DG, Parking, close to Maidstone hospital

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Second generation for VW Touareg is unveiled

VW has an all-new Touareg 4x4 due this summer and it is up to 200 kilos lighter and 20 per cent more fuel efficient than the current car.

No prices have been revealed yet, but VW will offer an out-and-out Escape version for buyers needing proper off-road performance and there will be a sporty hybrid, able to see off hot hatches while averaging in the mid-30s for mpg.

For a beefy SUV/4x4 it is also leaner and more stylish than it is currently.



### ix35 becomes first with new face of Hyundai

HYUNDAI'S forthcoming Tucson replacement, the ix35, launches a new design language and shows off a new hexagonal corporate grille.

The sleeker look is claimed to help aerodynamics and complement a new powertrain offering better fuel efficiency and lower CO2 emissions.

The Korean marque says this will attract would-be buyers of mainstream hatchbacks, MPVs and new crossovers like the Nissan Qashqai and Peugeot 3008.

The ix35 arrives in March, with pricing from around £14,000 – backed by the usual Hyundai five-year warranty.



### Audi's baby car gets an A1 for city car effort

AUDI is to close a gap in its model numbering system by launching a new A1.

The three-door compact will also break new ground by being a premium city car contender when order books open in May, priced from £13,000 and with standard spec including alloys, air con and electronic stability control.

The A1 will be an unusually sleek and sporty contender for this sector yet Audi claims it will still carry four people and their luggage, while offering both petrol and diesel powertrains.



BLOCK-BUSTER: Citroën contradicts the usual look for people carriers with its C3 Picasso, combining slippery edges and 4x4 styling with added 'bling' such as alloys and roof bars

# Citroën continues cubist cult with the C3 Picasso

PICASSO invented Cubism and Citroën has enjoyed contradicting it with a range of people carriers that avoid the usual one-box MPV look.

The C3 Picasso is the latest to blur the edges, by marrying basically upright lines – for load carrying versatility – with slippery edges and 4x4 styling cues. It also 'blings up' well with alloys, roof bars and add-ons.

The C3's quality interior and refinement impresses too and it's not a bad drive, a multiple bonus when buying at the bottom end of the range from £12,445, but a complement when would-be buyers start piling on extras.

Standard kit includes MP3-compatible sound system with steering wheel mounted controls and auxiliary socket, electrically adjustable mirrors and front electric windows.

As a result, you can see the C3 Picasso appealing as a cheap family wagon, 'funky wheels' for young buyers, executive holdall, lifestyle estate with a difference or 'smart yet sensible wheels' for empty nesters, to name but few.

I reckon the car looks best in dark colours with 'Black Pack' alloys and bumper inserts,

## ROAD TEST CITROËN C3

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

#### Driving appeal



#### Image



#### Space



#### Value



#### Running costs



#### Reliability



#### Green rating



but Citroën has shrewdly offered various acid colours – it has 'cult car' written all over it

We borrowed a 95bhp 1.4-litre petrol model from Wilmoths' Citroën at Park Wood, Maidstone, the most junior engine yet lively enough for the newcomer and quiet on the motorway.

A 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit is also in the mix, though Wilmoths' general sales manager Kelvin Clayton says the two 1.6-litre diesel options – 90bhp and 110bhp – dominate sales 70/30, despite a £1,100 premium.

There are three C3 Picasso trim levels: VT, VTR+ – the start point for air con as standard – and Exclusive. They all have typical Picasso versatility with split-fold/sliding rear seats.

The front passenger seat back also folds for extra load space and as a useful table cum tray for life on the road, while an upright rear end delivers one of the biggest boots in its sector.

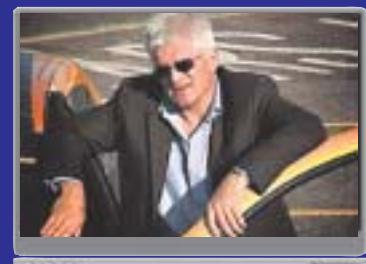
There is also lots of stowage bins and space and the glassy cabin can be enhanced by a panoramic roof – something of a Picasso speciality.

Add this to a high driving position and minimal body roll in corners and you are inclined to forgive slightly vague steering.



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09 59 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 2000 MILES.....	£10495
09 59 ZAFIRA 1-9 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET DEL MILES.....	£16995
09 59 ZAFIRA 1-9 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET DEL MILES.....	£15495
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 900 MILES.....	£7995
09 09 FORD FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£12995
09 09 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIRC ESTATE SILVER 2000 MILES.....	£9995
09 09 FORD C-MAX 2-0 ZETEC AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 3000 MILES.....	£13995
09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£10995
09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£10995
09 09 FORD FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£12995
09 09 KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR DASH 2000 MILES.....	£9995
09 09 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS DENIM BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£9995
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£7995
09 09 MECEDES A160 ELEGANCE AUTO PAS MET GOLD 750 MILES.....	£15495
09 09 NEW FORD S-MAX 2-0 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIRC GREEN 6000 MILES.....	£10995
09 58 NISSAN MICRA ACTIVE 1-9UXY 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 1700 MILES.....	£8995
09 58 FORD FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 1000 MILES.....	£12995
08 58 MAZDA TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS RED MET 5000 MILES.....	£9995
08 58 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE AUTO PAS BLACK 600 MILES.....	£9995
08 58 GRAND SCENIC 2-0 S DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS GREY 7000 MILES.....	£12995
08 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 4000 MILES.....	£7495
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-4 STYLE CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 5000 MILES.....	£9495
08 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES.....	£7995
08 58 FORD FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 1000 MILES.....	£7995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIRC ICE BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIRC ESTATE SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIRC TURQUOISE 1000 MILES.....	£7995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 1800 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 FORD FOCUS 1-6 COOL & COMFORT AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 TOYOTA YARIS 1-3 AUTO PAS AIRC 5DR BLUE 6000 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIRC MET BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£9995

**COUPES & CONVERTIBLES**

09 09 FORD FOCUS CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS ALLOYS RED 4000 MILES.....	£14995
08 58 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO ALL BLACK LEATHER 2000 MILES.....	£15995
08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS LATTE 4000 MILES.....	£11995
08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ACENTA AUTO PAS PACIFIC 2000 MILES.....	£10995
08 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 1000 MILES.....	£13495
07 57 MEGANE 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS INFERNO 2000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 MEGANE 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES.....	£10995
07 57 MEGANE 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES.....	£13495
06 56 MICRA 1-6 SPORT CONVERT AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 MICRA 1-6 ESSENZA CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 18000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS GREY 16000 MILES.....	£10995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 2000 MILES.....	£12995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES.....	£10995
06 06 MICRA 1-6 ESSENZA CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 28000 MILES.....	£9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES.....	£9995
05 05 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES.....	£10495
05 05 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 38000 MILES.....	£8995

**BMW**

05 55 BMW 320 DIESEL ES 6 SPEED MANUAL ESTATE 5000 MILES ONLY.....	£13995
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**FIAT**

06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000 MILES.....	£5995
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**FUSION & FIESTA**

07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/ICE BLUE 18000 MILES.....	£7995
07 57 FIESTA ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC BLUE 1000 MILES.....	£8995
07 07 FIESTA ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC GREEN 4000 MILES.....	£8495
06 56 FIESTA ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC BLUE 3000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/ICE BLUE 13000 MILES.....	£6995
05 55 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/ICE BLUE 1000 MILES.....	£7495
05 55 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/ICE BLUE 1000 MILES.....	£8995

**FORD FOCUS HATCHES & 4 DOORS**

08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIRC BLACK 4000 MILES.....	£11495
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIRC BLACK 4000 MILES.....	£12995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC AUTO PAS AIRC MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC AUTO PAS AIRC MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIRC CALLYSSA GREEN 5000 MILES.....	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3DR AUTO PAS AIRC ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC TANGO 3000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC TANGO 3000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC TANGO 3000 MILES.....	£9995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES.....	£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES.....	£9995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES.....	£9995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000 MILES.....	£7495

**FORD FOCUS ESTATES**

07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE ESTATE AUTO AIRC MOONDUST SILVER 1900 MILES.....	£8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5DR AUTO PAS AIRC GREY 16000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIRC 5DR 20000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO ESTATE PAS AIRC TONE 16000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIRC/STEEL GREY 12000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000 MILES.....	£7495

**MONDEO**

06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES.....	£9495
06 56 MONDEO 2-0 LX AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 24000 MILES.....	£8495

**CORSA**

08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIRC 3DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIRC 3DR ULTRA BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIRC 5DR BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£8995
07 58 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES.....	£7995
07 58 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 CLUB 5 DR AUTO PAS AIRC TAUPE 15000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE 5DR AIRC AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£6995
04 53 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 14000 MILES.....	£4995
03 53 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 14000 MILES.....	£4995

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**Ray Morris Automatic Cars**

No hidden extras, all prices include a twelve month free guarantee and new MOT if required. Only genuine mileage cars offered for sale

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06 06 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£5995
06 06 DAIHATSU CHARADE 1-0 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£5995

**CITROENS**

08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIRC/BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIRC/SEA GREEN 16000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 MILES.....	£8495

**MAZDA**

07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC/5DR SILVER 8000 MILES.....	£10995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC/5DR SEA GREY 16000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC/5DR MET BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC/5DR SEA GREY 21000 MILES.....	£9495

**SUZUKI**

07 57 GRAND VITARA 2-0 5DR AUTO PAS AIRC/BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£11995
06 55 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIRC/GREY 16000 MILES.....	£8995
02 51 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 2-0 DIESEL AUTO PAS SILVER 50000 MILES.....	£4995

**KIA**

06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C COND 21000 MILES.....	£5995
04 54 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C COND 21000 MILES.....	£5995

**HONDA**

06 56 HONDA CRV SE AUTO PAS SILVER GREY 10000 MILES.....	£11995
04 54 HONDA ACCORD 2-0 EXECUTIVE AUTO STATE 26000 MILES.....	£7995

**HYUNDAI**

08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES.....	£6995
08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 10000 MILES.....	£8995
06 55 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5	



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**TO ADVERTISE:** **EMAIL US** @: [appointments@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:appointments@kosmedia.co.uk)

**TELEPHONE US ON:** 01303 817040

**FAX US ON:** 01303 817004

- ACCOUNTANCY
- ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAL, PA
- AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
- ART AND DESIGN
- CATERING, HOSPITALITY
- CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, SURVEYORS
- CUSTOMER SERVICE, CALL CENTRE
- DOMESTIC
- EDUCATION, TEACHER, SCHOOL
- ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, UTILITIES
- ESTATE AGENCY, PROPERTY

- GRADUATE, TRAINEES
- HEALTH AND SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENCE
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- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

## TECHNICAL MANAGER REQUIRED

To control the Manufacturing/Servicing Dept of a Laboratory Equipment Company  
Experience of the following is required:  
production, general development of products, refrigeration systems  
good electrical/mechanical knowledge

Salary commensurate with experience

To apply please telephone 01732 743901

## Experienced PAYE Administrator

You must have experience dealing with payrolls, ideally for a number of companies, not just one in-house company, and you must have detailed knowledge on holiday entitlements, sick pay, redundancy and all the statutory aspects of payroll. A knowledge of the CIS systems, to cover CIS returns occasionally, is also needed. Please include the salary that you are looking for in your application.

All applicants must be able to drive due to the location of our offices.

Please send a CV to:

Mr M Kayes  
Riddingtons Ltd  
The Lodge  
Darenth Hill  
Darenth  
Kent DA2 7QR

or email:  
[mike@riddingtons.co.uk](mailto:mike@riddingtons.co.uk)



## Marketing Assistant

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.

### Marketing Assistant

This role will involve all aspects of campaign delivery including PR, online, briefing agencies, partners, and fulfilment houses; the production of a range of marketing material and the analysis of marketing results. The successful candidate will have a marketing background with experience of working in the tourism industry and will be a confident, outgoing person with excellent communication skills and ideally proficiency in French.

Salary £17,000 - £20,000

Visit [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) for more details of the position and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or [sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: 19th February 2010.

Interviews will be held on 25th February in Canterbury.

This advertisement first appeared on 6th February 2010.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, Thanet District Council, Canterbury City Council, Tonbridge and Malling District Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the leading private sector tourism businesses in Kent.



## Electrically Biased Site Supervisor

required by a Nationally based Specialist Company working within the Medical Pre-Installation field.

Negotiated Package.

Computer experience essential.

Must be willing to work away from home. E-mailed C.V. applications only to [smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk](mailto:smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk)

**NO AGENCIES, NO TELEPHONE CALLS**



## Emergency Medical Technician

East Kent & South London  
£7.00ph Starting Pay  
Full Time: 4 day - 12hr rota  
Immediate Start

Kent based Ambulance crews required. Applicants should have current EMT/CMT/FPOS/ECA/AP or Equivalent.

HSE FAW First Aiders also required  
Full UK driving licence essential.  
Enhanced CRB checks carried out.

Email CV to [jobs@lifeskillsmedical.com](mailto:jobs@lifeskillsmedical.com)  
Quote Ref: LS/KENT/0210 or visit:  
[www.lifeskillsmedical.com](http://www.lifeskillsmedical.com) (see news section)

## Visit Kent

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.



### Finance Coordinator

(French speaker preferred), Canterbury based but able to travel to Maidstone approximately twice a week and to France, The Netherlands and Belgium periodically for meetings. The focus of the role will be the preparation of monthly management accounts, budgeting and forecasting, cash flow, organising and supporting external audit of EU 2 Seas Interreg IVa projects, monitoring of project budgets and budget holders. Must have excellent systems skills (Excel & Sage) and be capable of robust and detailed analysis as well as the ability to liaise at senior levels. Experience in a financial environment and with European projects preferred.

Relevant tertiary qualifications required although candidates actively studying will be considered.

Salary £25,000 - £30,000

Visit [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or [sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: 24th February 2010.

This advertisement first appeared on 10th February 2010.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, Thanet District Council, Canterbury City Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the leading private sector tourism businesses in Kent.



## THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL

(A Foundation Technology College)  
Arethusa Rd, Rochester, Kent ME1 2UW

Headteacher: Mr P Jackson, BSc

Tel: 01634 844809 Fax: 01634 818385

Email: [office@thomasaveling.co.uk](mailto:office@thomasaveling.co.uk) Website: [www.thomasaveling.co.uk](http://www.thomasaveling.co.uk)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## Home School Support Worker

37 hours per week – (term time only + 3 weeks)

Salary: NJC Scale C1, point 17-26 pro-rata (£16,830 - £22,221 fte)

We seek to appoint from April 2010 a Home School Support Worker to support families whose children are experiencing difficulties and to help them participate fully in school activities.

The successful candidate will be expected to liaise with the school Children's Team and be able to offer:

- Experience of working with children and families • Good communication skills
- An ability to mediate, negotiate and problem solve • A willingness to work with other agencies

On appointment, the HSSW will be part of the Medway Home School Support Worker Network

and have access to training and a link supervisor.

It will be essential for the successful applicant to have a clean driving licence and to be willing to work outside of term time and beyond school hours as required.

Job Description available on request.

## Cover Supervisor

Term Time – 31.25 hours per week (Term time plus 5 development days)

Salary: NJC Scale D2 point 12 – Point 21 (presently £15,039 - £19,126 fte)

A rewarding opportunity has arisen for a pro-active organised and self-motivated person to join a successful and over-subscribed secondary school to provide teaching cover supervision across the school and cover for absent

colleagues as required to a maximum of 25 lessons per week. In addition, the successful applicant will be required to support student behaviour management systems and may occasionally be required to undertake other reasonable tasks commensurate with the role as may become necessary from time to time.

The position additionally represents a good opportunity for anyone considering a career in teaching to gain valuable experience in a teaching environment.

## CLOSING DATE FOR BOTH VACANCIES: WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

Interviews to be held w/beg 22 February 2010

(please note only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Please send your letter of application, clearly stating to which position you are applying, together with a completed Application Form (available on the school website) and CV to:

Mr S Rayner, Finance and Business Manager, to the above address.

*The Thomas Aveling School is an equal opportunities employer – committed to safeguarding the welfare of all students and an enhanced CRB check will be required for the successful applicants.*

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& NURSERY NURSES  
GET A FLYING START  
WITH OUR EXCELLENT  
PAY RATES**

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The Future Of Recruitment In Education

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**



**CHARING HEALTHCARE**  
are looking to recruit

### Night Time Care Assistants

for Residential Care Home in the Maidstone area. Must be flexible with shift patterns. Starting at £6 per hr according to experience.

Post is subject to a CRB disclosure.

For further details and further discussion please call Carol on 01622 737847

### JUNIOR SALES NEGOTIATOR

We are seeking an enthusiastic, well organised individual to join our busy Tunbridge Wells branch. Good telephone manner, basic salary + commission.

Please email your CV to twells@winkworth.co.uk

Young, enthusiastic and dynamic  
**BAR & RESTAURANT MANAGER**

required for busy bar/restaurant/club in Maidstone. Adaptability and enthusiasm is a must. Please email your CV and photograph to dfolb@lashings.co.uk.



To advertise in this section

**01303  
817040**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd ("the media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in respect of damage to the content of an advertisement.

3. All advertisements are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.

5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All posts and comments made on such sites by the advertiser to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the platform will be removed via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.

6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.

7. Copyright © 2009 KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this advertising programme or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.

8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertiser will be required to pay the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation that places an advertisement within the media owner's online platforms.

10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given as the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.

11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.

12. Details of cancellation notices in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.

13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.

14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to take legal action for recovery of debts accrued.

15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.

16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009), Discounts will be recalculated and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the cancellation. Cancellations of other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.

17. Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.

18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard or TV commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services company. TV commercials will be repaid by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.

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21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.

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Effective from June 2008

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Closing date 26th February 2010.



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reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

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We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check

### SKILLS FOR LIFE/FUNCTIONAL SKILLS TRAINER (PART TIME 16HRS) (MATERNITY COVER)

£17,734.00p.a (pro-rata)

This role is to provide high quality skills for life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and an ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information.

Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels both verbally and in writing.

You would be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative. Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

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**Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818301 for an application pack.**

**Closing date for both vacancies is 8th March 2010.**



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Ref: CA0973C

Salary: Soulbury points 10-12 £42,227 – £44,454 per annum  
Hours: 37 per week Location: Children and Adults – learning and caring directorate, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham

We are looking for a consultant with substantial and proven successful teaching and management experience in school for 19 April 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter, to be responsible for Minority Ethnic Achievement, and in particular for Traveller Education. The postholder will:

- provide training and school based consultancy to Medway primary and secondary schools to raise standards of teaching and learning and attainment for vulnerable pupils with a focus on minority ethnic pupils and in particular Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils.
- assist in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress and impact of provisions for vulnerable pupils in particular, GRT pupils in Medway schools.
- contribute to the raising of standards and improving inclusion of vulnerable pupils in Medway schools through training, challenge and support, and advice as required.

The postholder will be part of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Team and work alongside colleagues in the School Improvement Team. We welcome applications from the Traveller Community.

**Any offer of appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced criminal records bureau disclosure.**

**For an informal discussion phone Amy Thompson on 01634 338543**

**Closing date for application: Monday, 1 March.**

**Short listing date: Friday, 5 March. Interviews: Friday, 12 March.**

**For an application pack or to apply visit [www.medway.gov.uk](http://www.medway.gov.uk) or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm or 01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.**  
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This is a full time position and the successful applicant will be expected to work alongside a rota and cover on call responsibilities as required.

The post is subject to an enhanced CRB Disclosure.

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For further information and to download an Application Form please visit our website [www.theboulters.com](http://www.theboulters.com) or contact Margaret on 01795 845810

Closing date for Application Forms 1st March 2010

Interviews for those shortlisted will commence 8th March 2010

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Closing date: 26 February 2010. Interview date: 10 March 2010.

## Cognitive Behavioural Therapist, Couples or Family Therapist – Step 3 High Intensity

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(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)

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(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)

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EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS MAY BE REQUIRED

BASED IN RAMSGATE

You will join our IAPT service providing high intensity CBT/Couples/Family interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You will also provide an advisory service to IAPT colleagues on matters related to practice and delivery of CBT/Couples/Family therapy to individuals accessing the service in line with IAPT guidelines and best practice. The role may include group work, if the post holder is qualified and competent.

A Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Couples or Family Therapy is essential, and you must be accredited or working towards accreditation with the BABCP, or similar. To discuss this role informally, please contact the Service Manager, Lynda Burr on 01843 593832 (Monday, Wednesday or Friday). Ref: 622.

Closing date: 26th February 2010.

Interviews will take place in Ramsgate.

**For both posts, an application form and job description can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.**

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As part of the maintenance team you will help maintain and repair plant equipment throughout the Ashford sites. Working to a high standard and compliant with legislation you will need to be able to work as part of a team, or alone.

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Hours of work for the above 2 positions will be Flexible 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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The ideal candidate will have 3 years experience in a similar role, have good excel skills and experience of working with ERP systems. You must be a good team player, have good communication skills and be able to work on your own initiative. The position is based at the production site in Ashford in Kent. Hours of work will be 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme. For an application form, please telephone 01233 646599 or alternatively send a detailed CV, quoting your current salary to:-

HR Department – Recruitment, Sauflon Pharmaceuticals Limited, Unit 8, Mace Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent - TN24 8EP alternatively email: [SimonIK@sauflon.co.uk](mailto:SimonIK@sauflon.co.uk)



KOS Media is looking to recruit a news editor and reporter for the Midweek series of newspapers based at our offices just outside of Ashford.

## News Editor

We need a qualified senior, preferably with desk experience, who is able to lead a team including trainees for three editions. Your experience and knowledge of news gathering will be essential in helping trainees meet their potential.

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Apply with your CV or letter to:

**Gary Wright**  
Group Editor Midweeks  
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road,  
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR  
email: [gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk)

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Notice is hereby given that Christine Gillian Southern has applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the grant of a Premises License in respect of the premises known as Southern Newsagents, 6 Mangrave Avenue, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9BQ for the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises.

Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ during normal office hours. Any representations from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the Council by 17th March 2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable to a summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £5000.



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**ON TARGET:** Jon Cooper's (pictured) strike helped Maidstone to their first league win of the year

## CRICKET

### Jones still has hunger after winter break

AFTER one of his most successful seasons for Kent, Geraint Jones insists he won't be curbing his attacking instincts when he goes out to bat against Division One bowlers this summer.

The wicket keeper/batsman was a revelation at number three in the Kent batting order in championship cricket last summer, scoring 1,291 runs at 51.64 which included five hundreds and the same number of 50s.

The 33-year-old counter-attacked whether he went in first wicket down with Kent struggling on 2 for 1 or 100 for 1, displaying the sort of form from his early days with the county, and which later made him a permanent fixture in the England side.

He was also named Kent Player of the Year last summer and is believed to have been close to a recall to the England set-up during the winter tour to South Africa. After spending some of the off-season in Australia visiting family and friends, the Papua New Guinea-born right-hander is refreshed and ready for the new season.

"Having that big break works for me because it gives me that hunger for the game again after a hard summer," he said. "I was happy with the way the season went and with the amount of runs I scored and to be named player of the year was like the icing on the cake really. The key for me this year is to be consistent and do it summer after summer and make sure it wasn't just a one off."

Jones will form part of a strong Kent top order which includes skipper Rob Key, Joe Denly, Martin van Jaarsveld, Darren Stevens and Sam Northeast and says that settled batting line-up does bring a sense of stability.

Whatever happens this summer, Jones will not be forced into his shell.

"If the balls are in the right area I will whack them, but there were times last season where I set my stall out to bat periods and left the ball well," he said.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT**  
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



**FORM:** Geraint Jones

# Bassano-Harper among the goals again

## Banbury 0 Maidstone 3

MAIDSTONE men's 1st XI pulled further clear of the relegation mira in South Hockey Premier League Division One after a comfortable win at Banbury.

Darren Marchant's side have slowly slipped down the table since the start of the New Year and visited Banbury knowing they needed to end their barren run.

Maidstone made a strong start to the game and took the lead through top scorer Chris Bassano-Harper. The goal was his 16th of the

## HOCKEY

season so far.

Further strikes from Jon Cooper and Chris Waight wrapped up the three points and secured Maidstone's first league win since their 3-2 victory against Oxford University on December 12.

The much-needed three points means Maidstone move into tenth place in the division and 12 points clear of the relegation zone. Marchant's side have a tough challenge

to clinch back-to-back wins as they host fourth-placed Chichester this Saturday. Chichester have lost once in their last five games and are ready to pounce in the battle for promotion.

Maidstone ladies enjoyed a break at the weekend, but they are due to return East Women's Premier League action next week. Rachel Thompson's side have four games of the season remaining and are just eight points behind leaders Canterbury 2s with two games in hand. On Saturday they travel to meet seventh-placed Wapping.



**FIRST WIN:** Aylesford Bulls used their power up front to carve out their first league win of the season against arch rivals Maidstone

Picture MARTYN WATSON

# Maidstone lose out as Bulls claim basement battle win

AYLESFORD Bulls claimed the local bragging rights and secured their first win of the season in a London 1 South basement battle at Maidstone.

With both sides at the foot of the table after difficult seasons, pride was only at stake at The Mote. Bulls, who entered the game without a win this season and having been defeated by their rivals earlier in the season, rose to the challenge and left Maidstone with their first ever league victory against their near neighbours.

After Maidstone's strong performance in a 44-24 defeat to Sidcup the previous week, much was expected from the home side's back line, but they failed to deliver.

The first 20 minutes saw Aylesford dominate

## RUGBY

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

### Maidstone 3 Aylesford Bulls 26

and they had two penalty chances to take the lead, but fly-half Dan Harvey missed both kicks at goal. Maidstone responded by forcing Bulls into their own 22. Despite a number of promising opportunities, the scoreboard read 0-0 at the break.

Aylesford started the second-half with considerable purpose, but it was Maidstone who scored first. A penalty to Aylesford just past the halfway line was reversed and then progressed ten metres for dissent, bringing it within Mike Molloy's range and he duly converted.

The game took a turn in Aylesford's favour as they capitalised on a scrum deep in Maidstone's 22. A quick ball inside to Richard Nauer created a gap, which he powered through to score the first try of the game. Harvey converted to give Aylesford a 7-3 lead.

Maidstone's chances of victory were dealt a blow minutes later, as they were reduced to 14 men with Jack Lamb shown a yellow card. Bulls took full advantage of their extra man and extended their lead with a try from Lueda Jope.

With Maidstone's pack in disarray, Jope completed a hat trick with two further tries to secure a comfortable victory for Aylesford Bulls. Despite recording their first ever league win against Maidstone, Bulls remain bottom of London 1 South.

Aylesford host Thanet Wanderers this Saturday, while Maidstone visit Beckenham.

# We'll Nott be relegated, says new Stones boss

## FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

CARETAKER boss Peter Nott says his first objective while in charge of Maidstone United is to ensure the club avoids relegation.

Nott was appointed caretaker boss of the Ryman Premier League club last week, following the shock departure of joint-managers Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume. Although he has been quickly drafted into the role, he is clear on his objectives while in charge.

The former Maidstone reserve team boss has already taken charge of two games, which saw the Stones beaten 3-0 by Hendon, followed by a 1-0 win at Carshalton Athletic. Nott, who has been involved at the club for eight years, is excited by the chance to lead the first-team and is confident he can secure Maidstone's status in the division.

He said: "First objective is we have got to stay in this league and I don't mean that in a negative way. Once we have done that then we can build on that and try and achieve more. This league is very tight and two or three wins can make a real difference, if we can do that then we will chase other targets."

"First-team manager is something I've aspired to be and I've worked hard to get to this point. A lot of the players are close to Alan and Lloyd, but they have been very responsive. There are lots of experienced players here



**NEW ROLE** Peter Nott (left) and Jay Saunders (right) are ready to help guide the club to safety

and they genuinely want to do well and they will."

Former Gillingham and Ebbsfleet United midfielder Craig Stone has joined the club on a game-by-game basis as he continues his recovery from a broken leg.

The 21-year-old played his first game for Maidstone last week, which is the first match he has played since breaking his leg with Ebbsfleet United last year.

Nott said: "Craig has joined us to help his recovery. It is not a secret that he wishes to return to full-time football, but he is here to help his fitness and help us. He will be available for Thursday's game against Waltham Abbey."



Picture STEVE TERRIL

Elsewhere at the club, general manager Bill Williams has been appointed as director of football to assist Nott for the remainder of the season. Also, midfielder Jay Saunders has taken up the role of player/coach.

Williams said: "I'm delighted to be involved and will always be available when needed. There is a great deal to be done to make sure that we have the type of exciting and competitive team that everyone will be happy to support, but that is obviously down to Peter and his assistant Tony [Cornwell]."

"My first aim is to secure a permanent training centre, a facility where we are able to train and treat any injured players."

## LEAGUE TABLE

### RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	24	17	4	3	+41	55
2 Kingstonian	27	15	3	9	+5	48
3 Hastings United	27	12	6	9	+6	42
4 Sutton United	25	12	4	9	+13	40
5 Boreham Wood	26	12	4	10	+8	40
6 Tooting & Mitcham	27	11	7	9	+3	40
7 Ashford Town (Mx)	28	10	10	8	-2	40
8 Wealdstone	23	10	9	4	+2	39
9 Horsham	25	11	5	9	+6	38
10 AFC Hornchurch	26	9	9	8	+2	36
11 Canvey Island	26	10	6	10	+1	36
12 Aveley	26	10	5	11	+5	35
13 Harrow Borough	26	9	8	9	0	35
14 Cray Wanderers	29	10	4	15	-16	34
<b>15 Maidstone United</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>32</b>
16 Hendon	23	9	4	10	0	31
17 Carshalton Athletic	25	7	8	10	-7	29
18 Tonbridge Angels	26	8	5	13	-11	29
19 Billericay Town	25	6	8	11	-7	26
20 Margate	25	6	7	12	-15	25
21 Bognor Regis Town	25	5	9	11	-12	24
22 Waltham Abbey	25	6	6	13	-16	24

## FIXTURES

(Thursday): Ryman League Premier Division:

Maidstone United v Waltham Abbey; (Saturday):

Ryman League Premier Division: Billericay Town v

Maidstone United

## FOOTBALL



Picture STEVE TERRIL

**DEPARTED:** Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume enjoyed a successful time in charge of Maidstone United

## Walker's exit marks the end of an era

ALAN Walker's departure from Maidstone United marked the end of an association with the club spanning three decades.

Walker, who left the club along with joint boss Lloyd Hume last week, first played against the Stones when he was with Telford, but wrote his name into club folklore on Boxing Day 1989, when, as Gillingham captain, he knocked himself unconscious scoring a consolation goal in the first ever Kent derby in the Football League.

With Gillingham trailing Maidstone 2-0 in injury time, Walker hurled himself at a cross and scored but smashed his head into the upright, a typically brave act by a granite-hard player who inspired fierce loyalty.

When Hume was named Maidstone manager in 2004 it was a transparent way of getting around Kent League rules that prevented Walker, a KCFA employee, from officially taking the role.

Yet by the time the duo had won promotion to the Ryman League, an increasingly confident Hume wanted an even footing and the pair were named joint-managers for 2006/2007, when they won Ryman Division One South at the first attempt.

However, in the summer of 2007 Walker suffered a freak spinal injury while heading a ball during a coaching session in Belfast.

Although surgeons considered his recovery "astonishing," for a man who played well into his 40s, the injury was devastating.

Although he returned to co-manage the side with Hume, for the first time this season the team looked less than the sum of its parts.

Walker was unavailable for comment, but Hume said the duo had left on good terms.

"I've never been at a club for as long as this so it will be hard to leave it," he said. "I think for me my highlight was winning promotion to the Ryman Premier at the first time of asking. It was a great season and I enjoyed every minute of it."

"I've worked with Alan for a long time and I would like to work alongside him at another club if the chance arose. I think during our time together at Maidstone we have proved that having joint managers works."



Picture GOR DURCO

**SPRINT FINISH:** Mike Coleman (611) and Dean Lacey battle it out on the final straight at Detling Hill

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on what's needed to steer the club away from the drop zone



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